



BATMAN BEGINS™



THE OFFICIAL MOVIE ADAPTATION

BEATTY • PLUNKETT • LAPOINTE • VILLARRUBIA



BATMAN BEGINS

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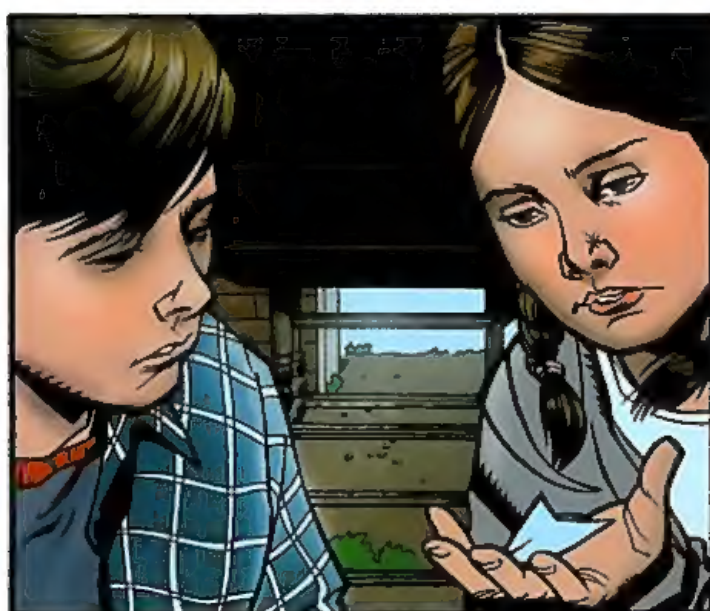
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ARE YOU SO DESPERATE TO FIGHT CRIMINALS THAT YOU LOCK YOURSELF IN TO TAKE THEM ON ONE AT A TIME?



THERE WERE SEVEN OF THEM.

I COUNTED SIX MEN, MISTER WAYNE.



HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

THE WORLD IS TOO SMALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE BRUCE WAYNE TO DISAPPEAR.



NO MATTER HOW DEEP HE CHOOSES TO SINK.



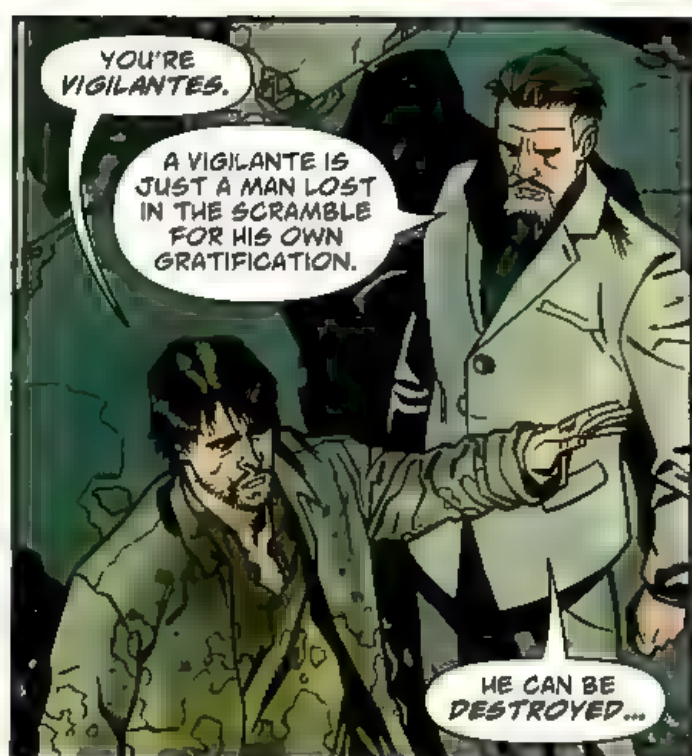
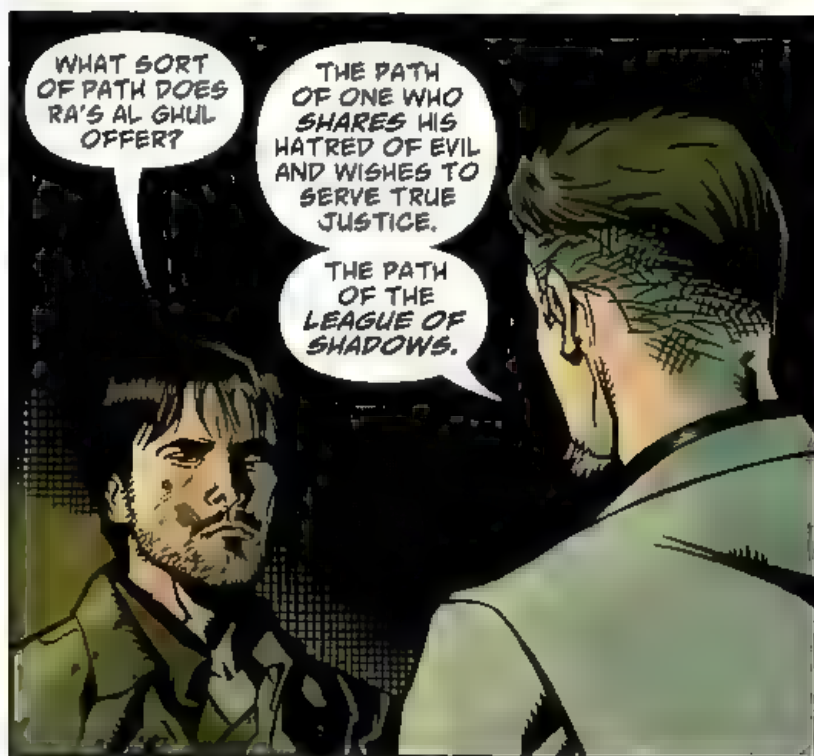
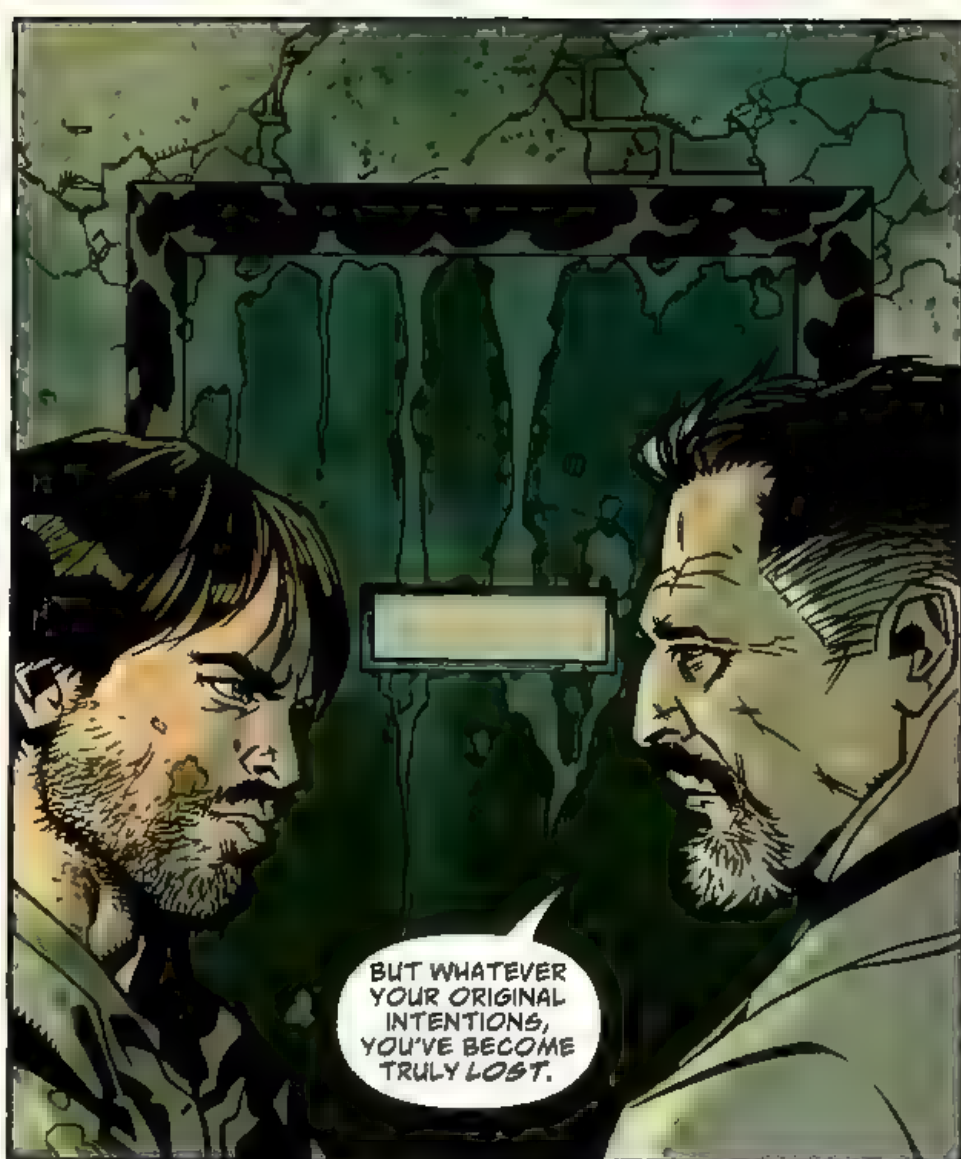
WHO ARE YOU?



MY NAME IS DUCARD, BUT I SPEAK FOR RA'S AL GHUL...

A MAN GREATLY FEARED BY THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD...

A MAN WHO CAN OFFER YOU A PATH.



WHICH
IS?

A
LEGEND,
MISTER
WAYNE

TOMORROW YOU WILL
BE RELEASED.

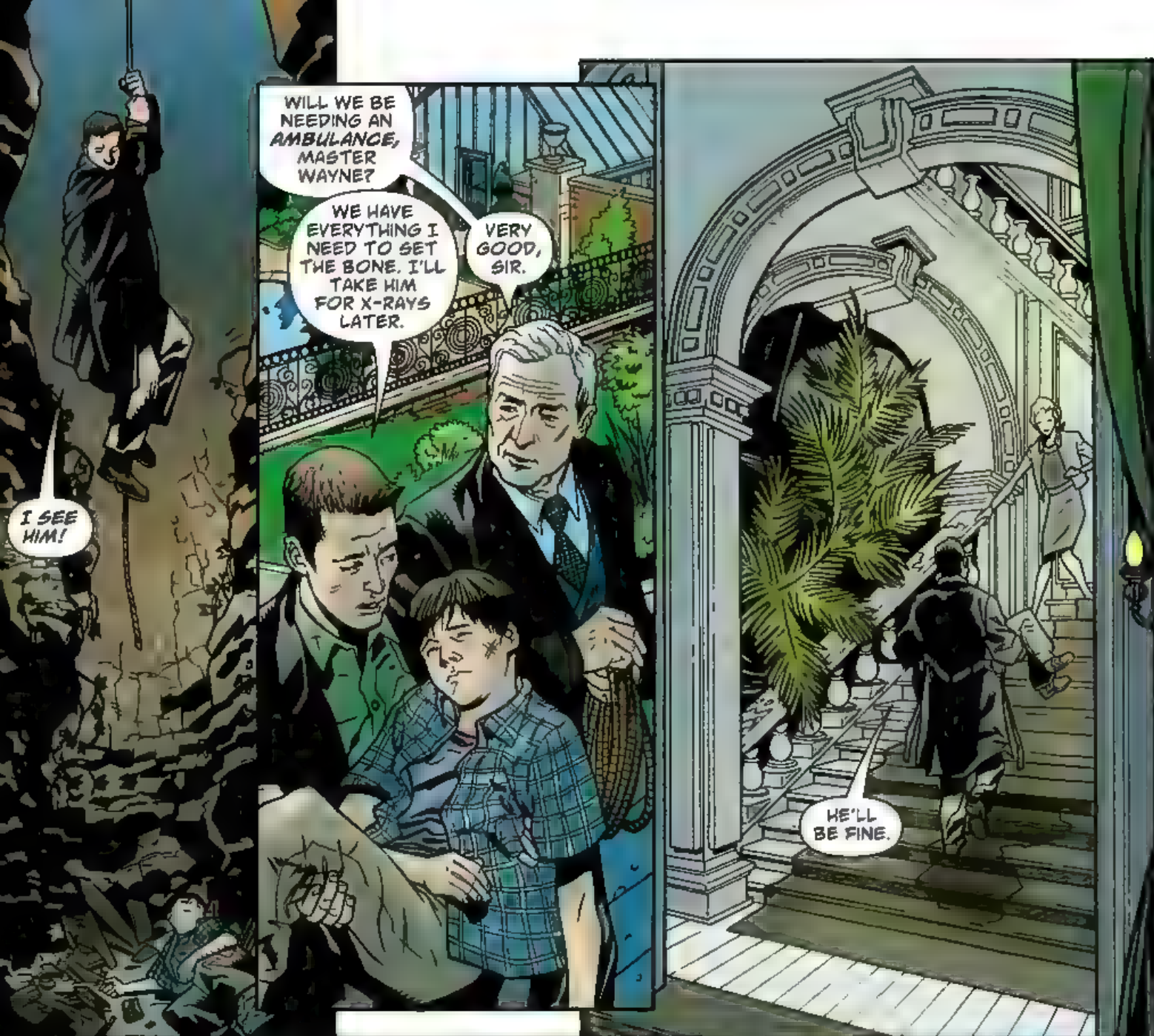
IF YOU'RE
BORED WITH BRAWLING
WITH THIEVES AND WANT
TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING,
THERE IS A RARE FLOWER--
A BLUE POPPY-- THAT
GROWS ON THE EASTERN
SLOPES.

IF YOU
CAN CARRY IT TO
THE TOP OF THE
MOUNTAIN, YOU MAY
FIND WHAT YOU
WERE LOOKING
FOR IN THE FIRST
PLACE.

AND
WHAT WAS
I LOOKING
FOR?

ONLY YOU
CAN KNOW
THAT.





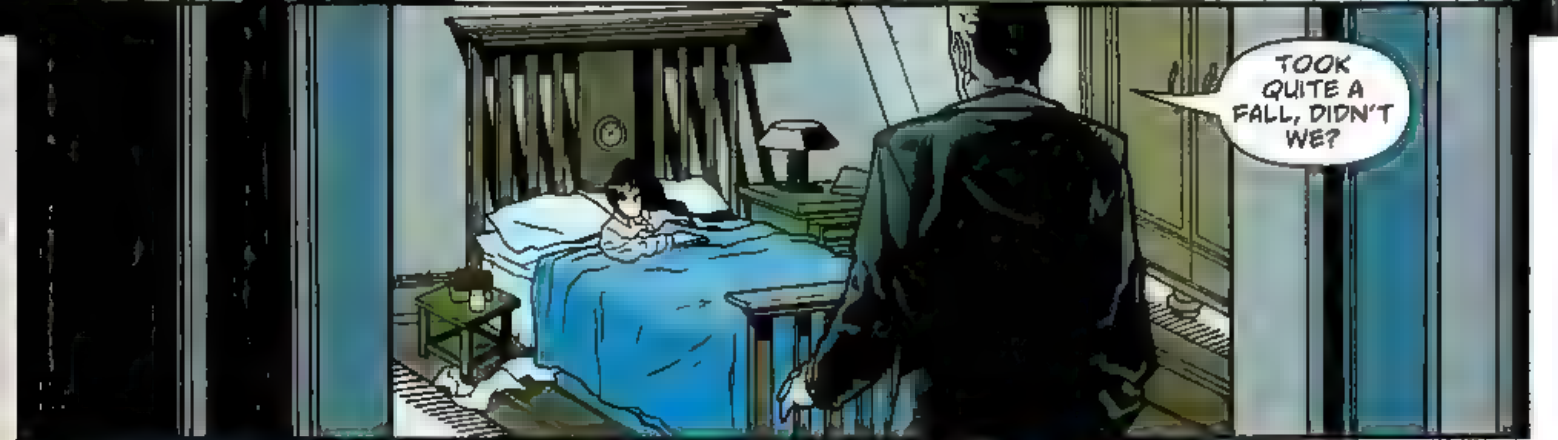
I SEE HIM!

WILL WE BE NEEDING AN AMBULANCE, MASTER WAYNE?

WE HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED TO SET THE BONE. I'LL TAKE HIM FOR X-RAYS LATER.

VERY GOOD, SIR.

HE'LL BE FINE.



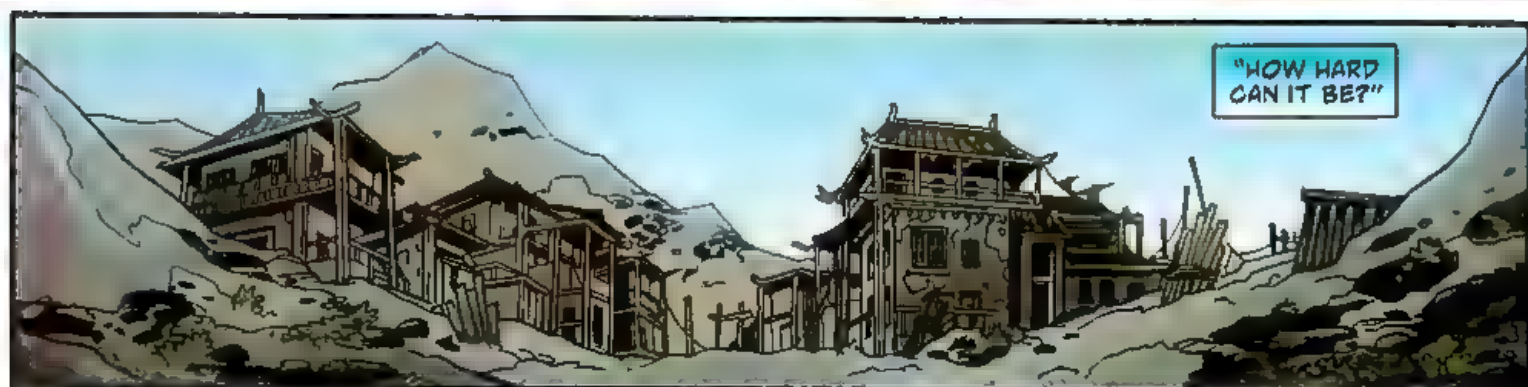
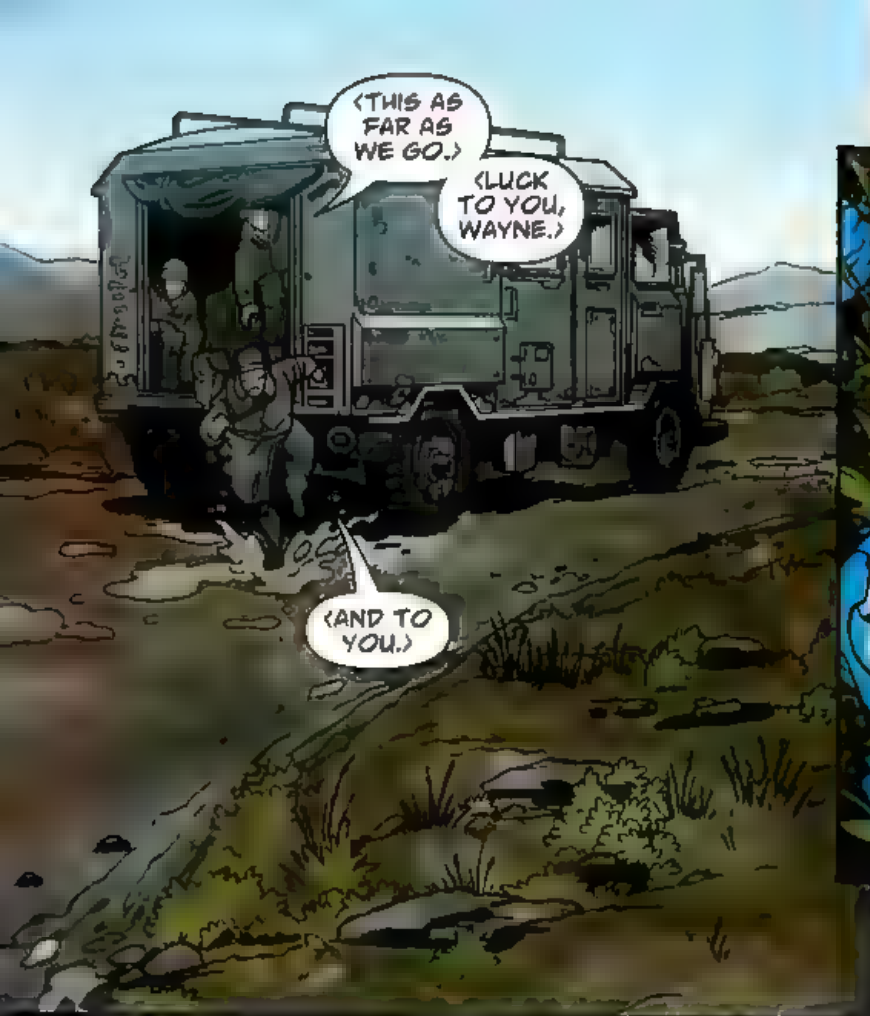
TOOK QUITE A FALL, DIDN'T WE?

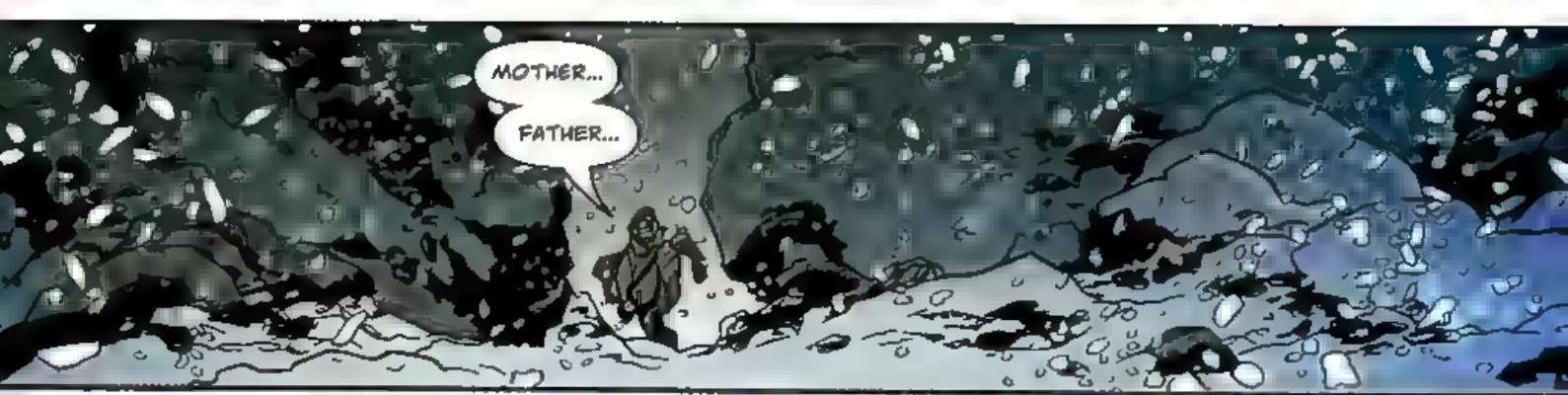


AND WHY DO WE FALL, MASTER BRUCE?



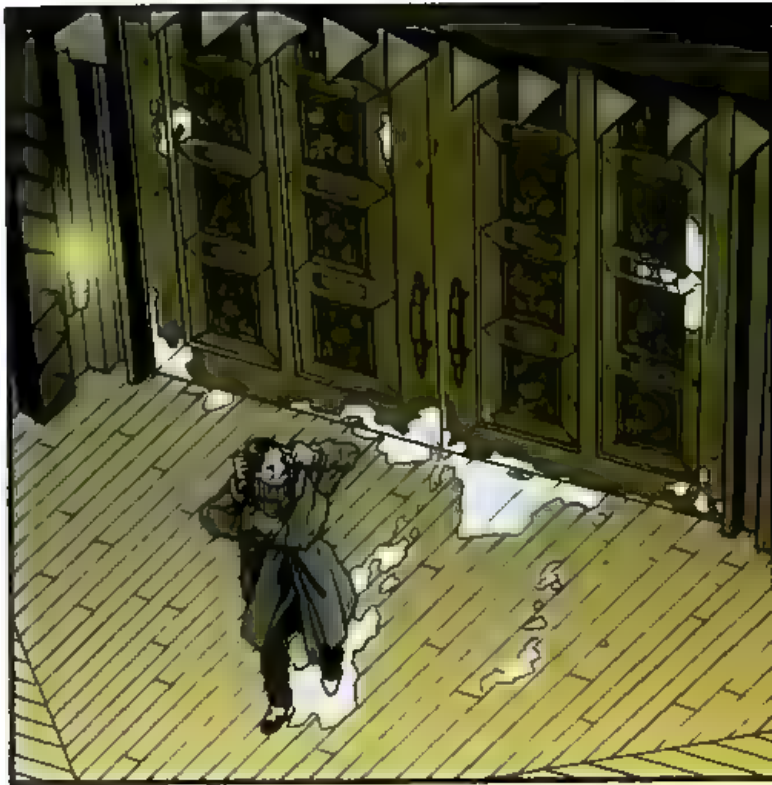
SO THAT WE MIGHT BETTER LEARN TO PICK OURSELVES UP.







HELLO?



RA'S AL GHUL?



WAIT.

WITH BUT
A WORD THEY
WILL KILL YOU
WHERE YOU
STAND...



WAYNE.

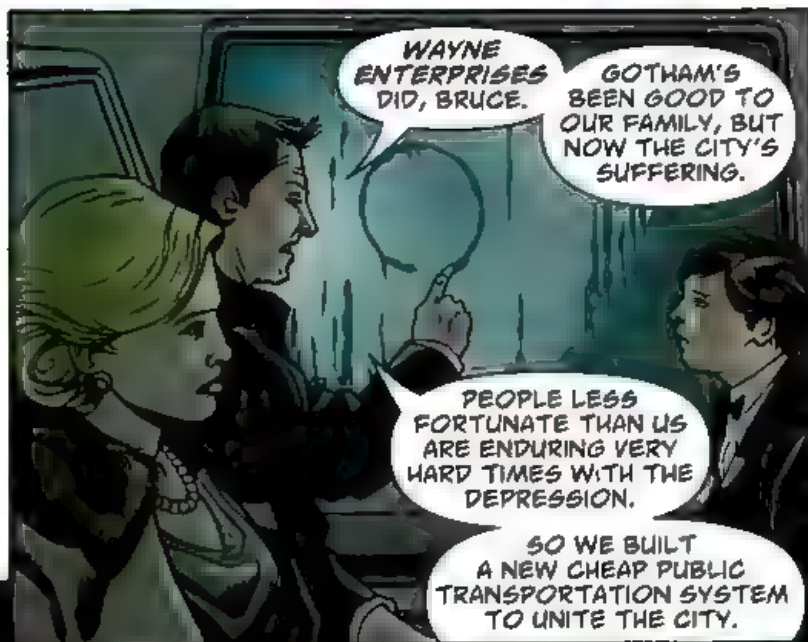
DUCARD.

WELCOME
TO THE
LEAGUE OF
SHADOWS.





DID YOU BUILD THIS TRAIN, DAD?

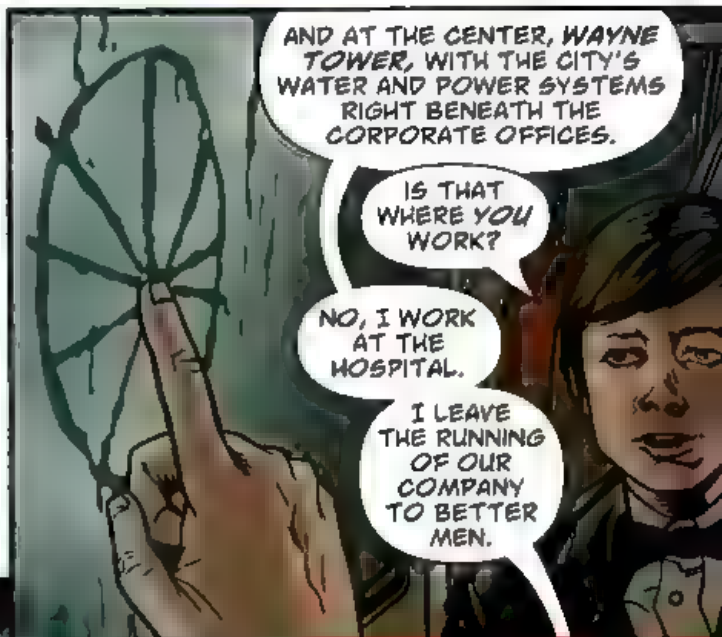


WAYNE ENTERPRISES DID, BRUCE.

GOTHAM'S BEEN GOOD TO OUR FAMILY, BUT NOW THE CITY'S SUFFERING.

PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US ARE ENDURING VERY HARD TIMES WITH THE DEPRESSION.

SO WE BUILT A NEW CHEAP PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO UNITE THE CITY.



AND AT THE CENTER, WAYNE TOWER, WITH THE CITY'S WATER AND POWER SYSTEMS RIGHT BENEATH THE CORPORATE OFFICES.

IS THAT WHERE YOU WORK?

NO, I WORK AT THE HOSPITAL.

I LEAVE THE RUNNING OF OUR COMPANY TO BETTER MEN.

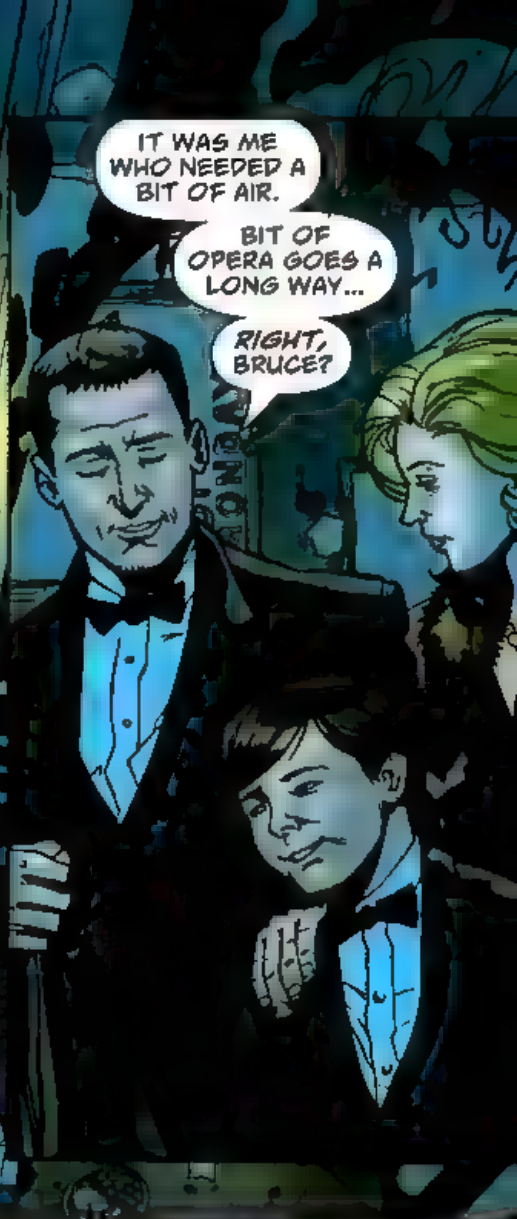


WAYNE STATION! WAYNE STATION, NEXT!

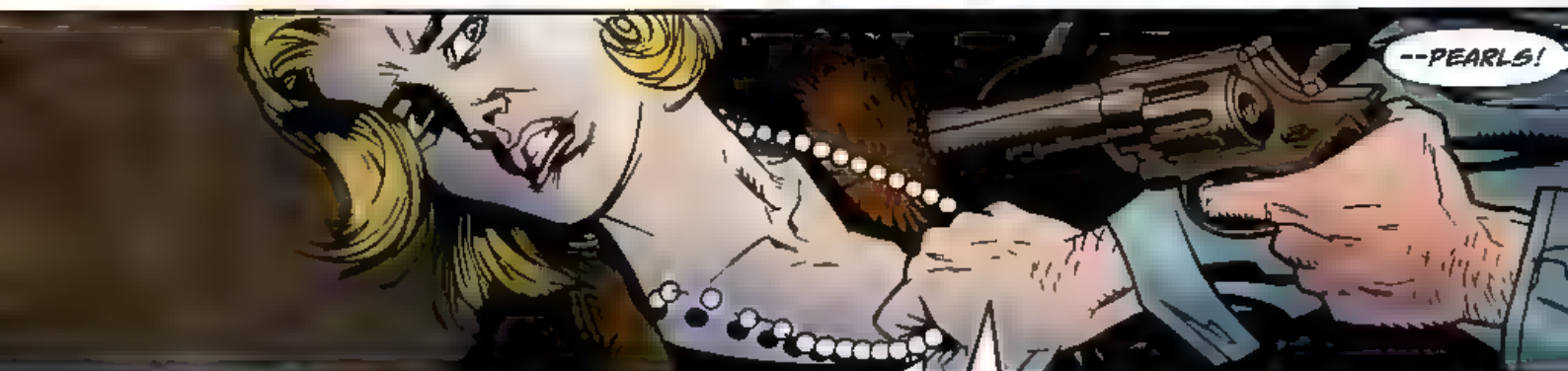
BETTER?

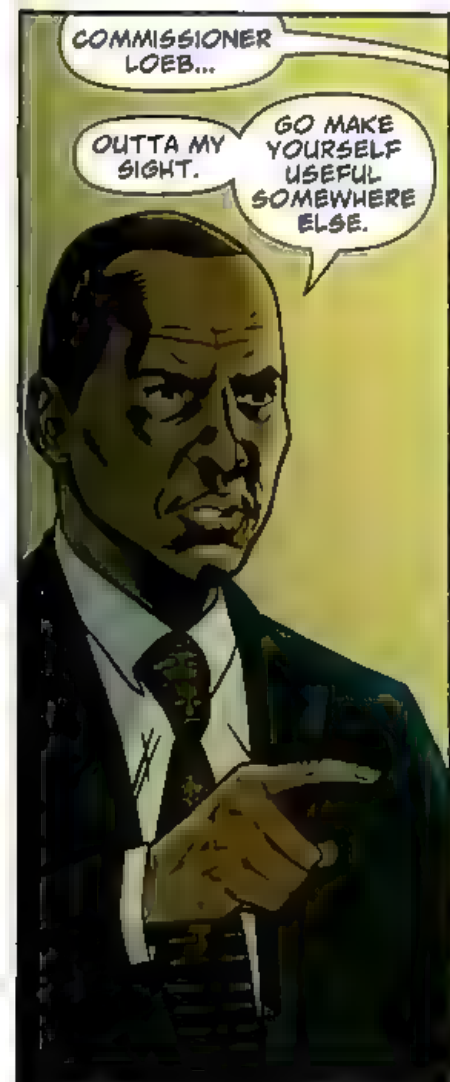
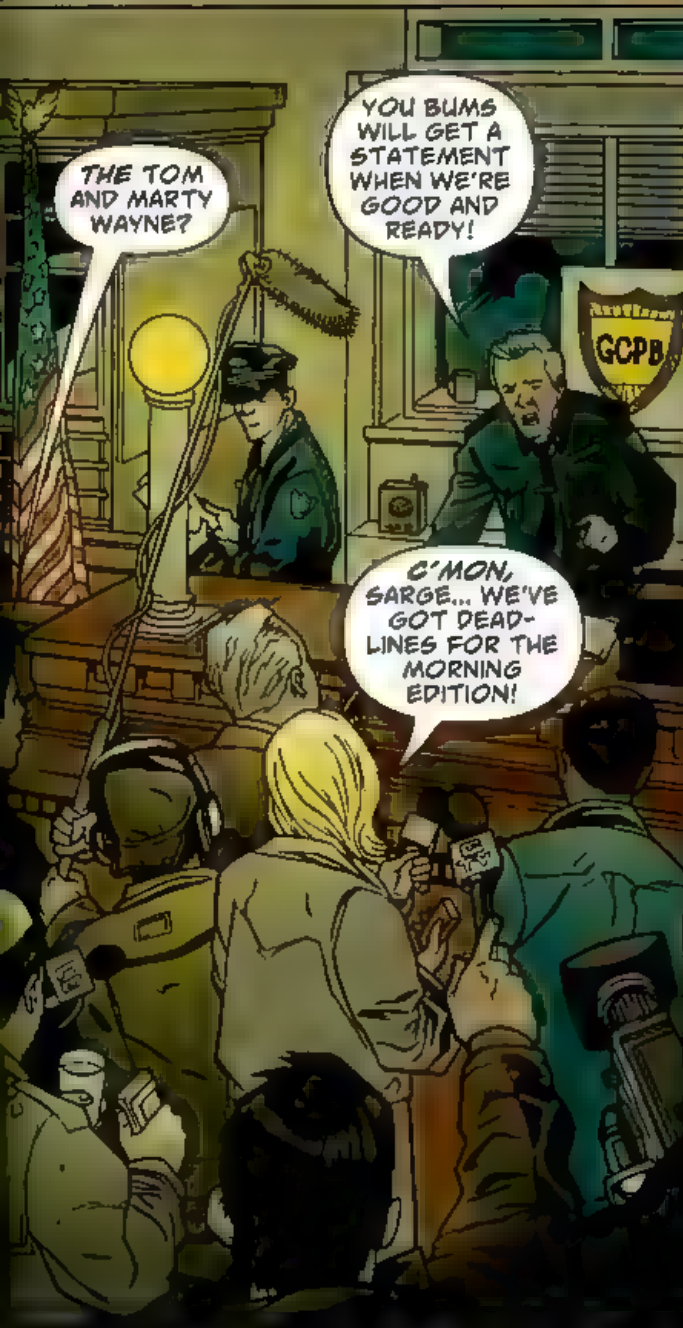
WELL, MORE INTERESTED MEN.









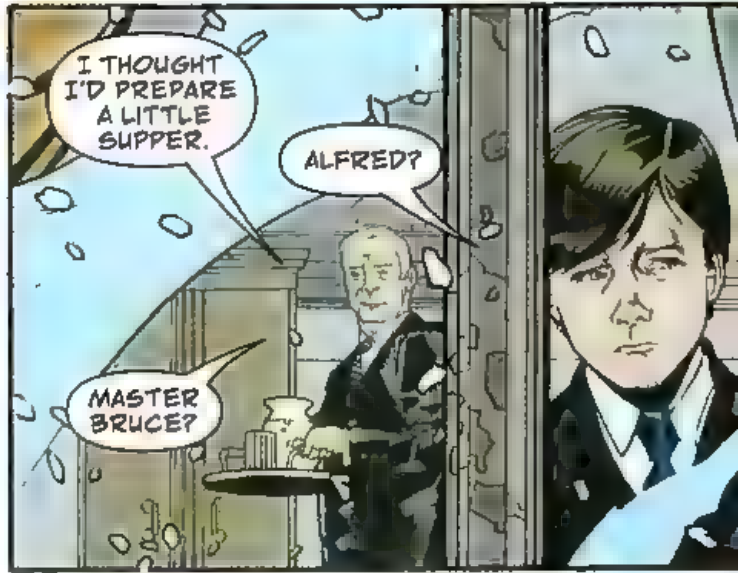




YOU'RE IN
EXCELLENT
HANDS,
BRUCE.
AND WE'RE
MINDING THE
EMPIRE.

WHEN YOU'RE
ALL GROWN UP,
IT'LL BE
WAITING.

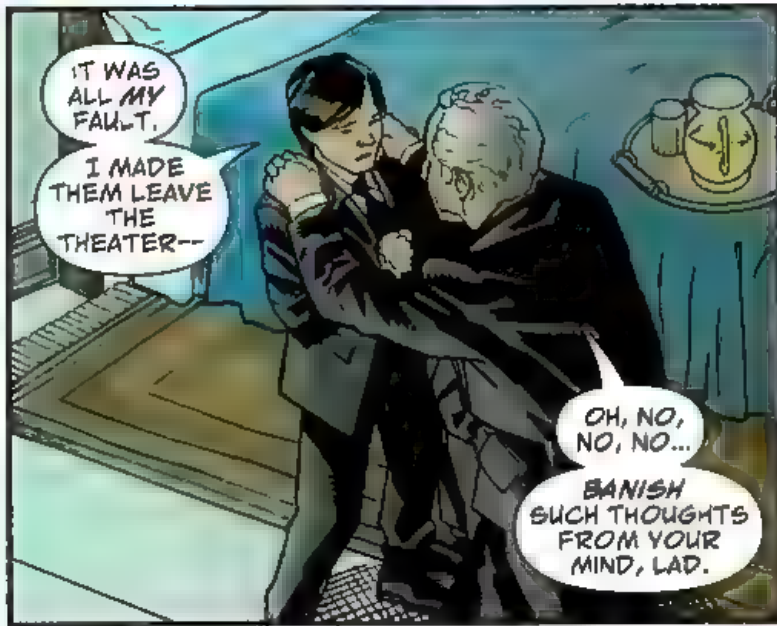
THANK
YOU, MISTER
EARLE.



I THOUGHT
I'D PREPARE
A LITTLE
SUPPER.

ALFRED?

MASTER
BRUCE?

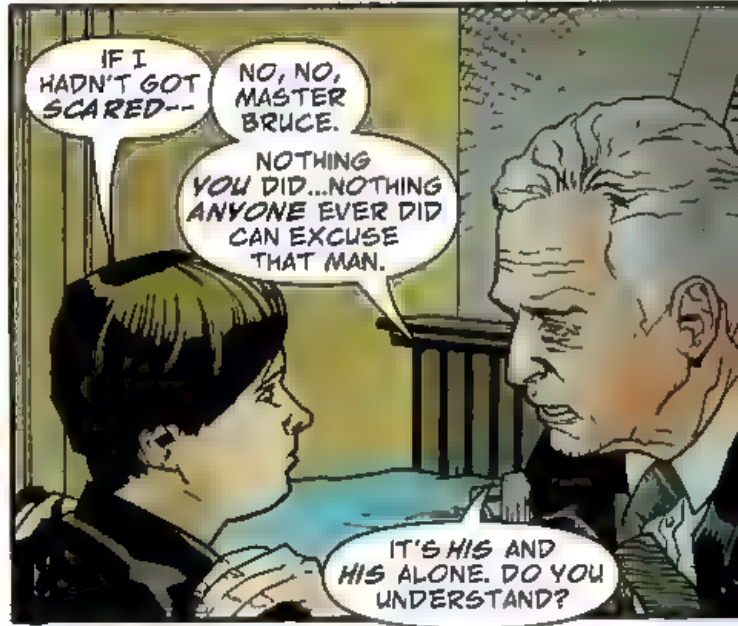


IT WAS
ALL MY
FAULT.

I MADE
THEM LEAVE
THE
THEATER--

OH, NO,
NO, NO...

BANISH
SUCH THOUGHTS
FROM YOUR
MIND, LAD.



IF I
HADN'T GOT
SCARED--

NO, NO,
MASTER
BRUCE.

NOTHING
YOU DID...NOTHING
ANYONE EVER DID
CAN EXCUSE
THAT MAN.

IT'S HIS AND
HIS ALONE. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?



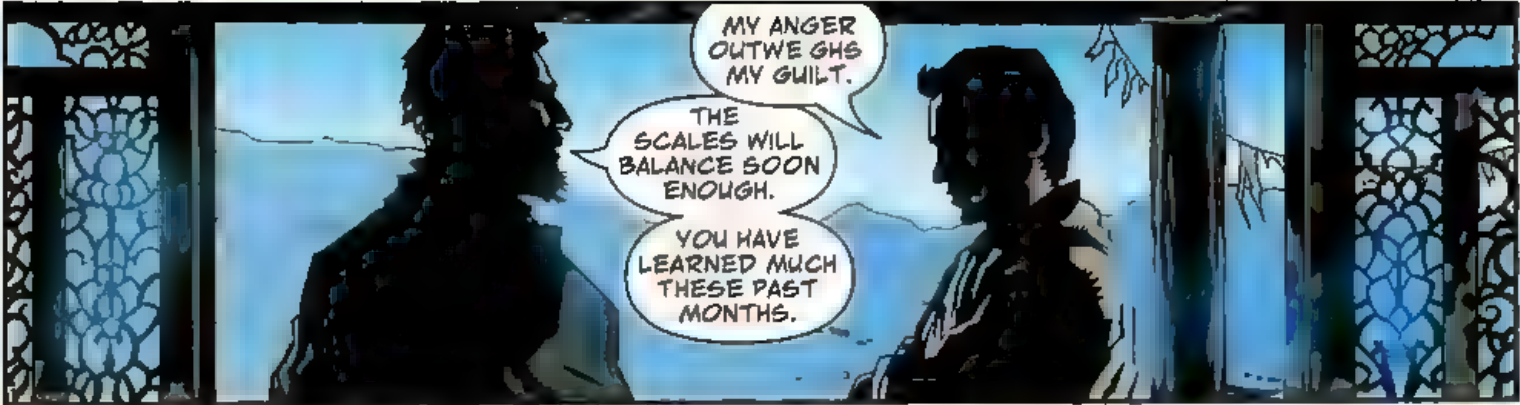
I MISS
THEM,
ALFRED.

I MISS
THEM SO
MUCH.



SO
DO I.

"AND DO YOU
STILL FEEL
RESPONSIBLE?"



MY ANGER
OUTWEIGHS
MY GUILT.

THE
SCALES WILL
BALANCE SOON
ENOUGH.

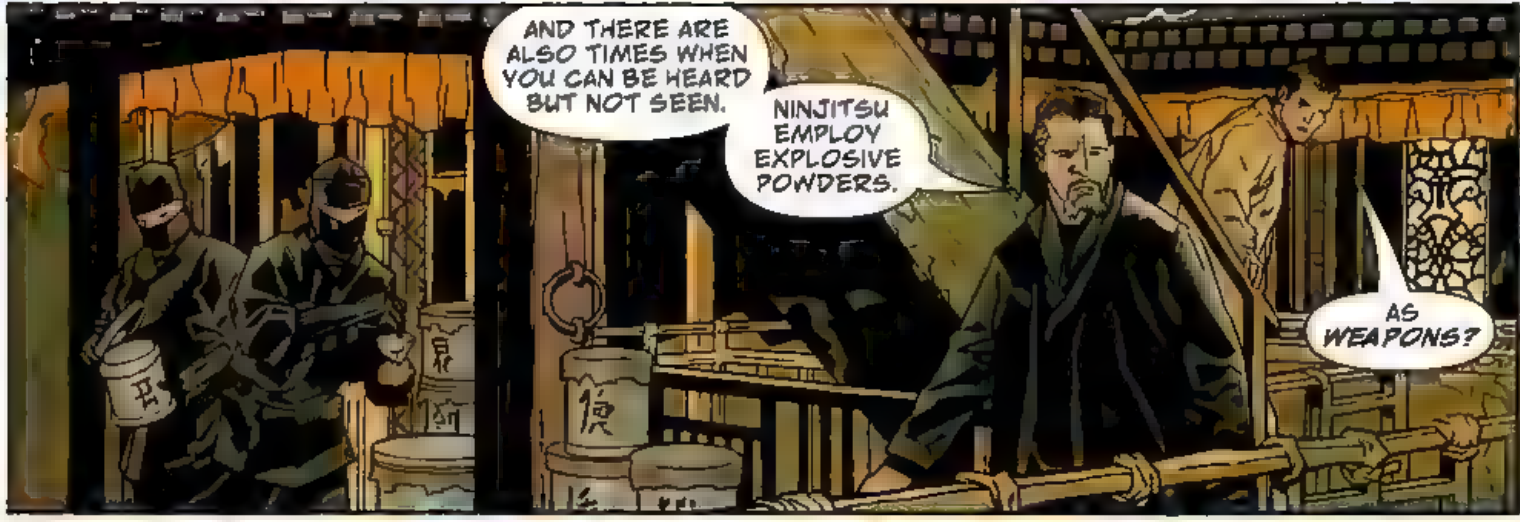
YOU HAVE
LEARNED MUCH
THESE PAST
MONTHS.



AND TODAY'S
LESSON,
DUCARD?

STEALTH.

THE NINJA IS
THOUGHT INVISIBLE.
BUT INVISIBILITY IS
A MATTER OF
PATIENCE.



AND THERE ARE
ALSO TIMES WHEN
YOU CAN BE HEARD
BUT NOT SEEN.

NINJITSU
EMPLOY
EXPLOSIVE
POWDERS.

AS
WEAPONS?



DISTRACTIONS.

BANG



THEATRICALITY
AND DECEPT ON ARE
POWERFUL AGENTS,
WAYNE.

YOU MUST
BE MORE THAN
A MAN IN THE
MINDS OF YOUR
OPPONENTS.



BANG



ISN'T THIS
A DANGEROUS
PLACE TO
FIGHT?

FIGHTING
IS INHERENTLY
DANGEROUS,
WAYNE.

YOU CANNOT
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE FIELD OF
BATTLE...



BUT A
MASTERFUL
FIGHTER CAN
USE THE FIELD
TO HIS
ADVANTAGE.



MIND YOUR
SURROUNDINGS.

ALWAYS.



HA!!

YOUR
PARENTS'
DEATH WAS
NOT YOUR
FAULT--



--IT
WAS YOUR
FATHER'S.

YOU...



ANGER WILL
NOT CHANGE
THE FACT THAT
YOUR FATHER
FAILED TO
ACT.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND...





NOW
HYPOTHERMIA IS
YOUR GREATEST
FOE.

RUB YOUR
CHEST, YOUR ARMS
WILL TAKE CARE OF
THEMSELVES.

YOU'RE
STRONGER
THAN YOUR
FATHER

YOU DIDN'T
KNOW MY
FATHER.

BUT I KNOW
THE RAGE THAT DRIVES
YOU, THAT IMPOSSIBLE
ANGER STRANGLING THE
GRIEF UNTIL YOUR LOVED
ONES' MEMORY IS
JUST POISON IN
YOUR VEINS.

AND ONE
DAY YOU WATCH
YOURSELF WISHING
THE PERSON YOU LOVED
HAD NEVER EXISTED SO
YOU'D BE SPARED
THAT PAIN.



I WASN'T
ALWAYS IN THE
MOUNTAINS.



ONCE
I HAD A WIFE,
MY GREAT
LOVE.

SHE WAS
TAKEN FROM
ME.



YOUR ANGER
GAVE YOU GREAT
POWER.

BUT IF YOU
LET IT, IT WILL
DESTROY YOU
AS IT ALMOST
DID ME.

WHAT
STOPPED YOUR
ANGER?



VENGEANCE.



THAT'S
NO HELP
TO ME.

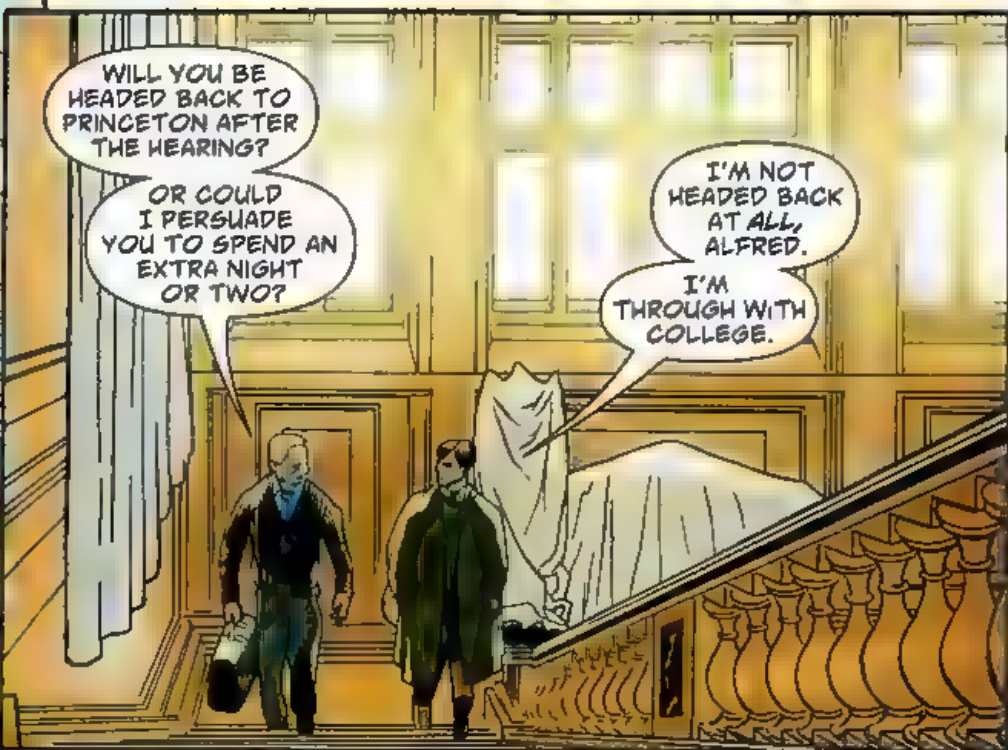
WHY?



YOU WANT ME TO PULL UP?
METER'S RUNNIN', YA KNOW.

SORRY...

I WAS LOST IN THOUGHT...



WILL YOU BE HEADED BACK TO PRINCETON AFTER THE HEARING?

OR COULD I PERSUADE YOU TO SPEND AN EXTRA NIGHT OR TWO?

I'M NOT HEADED BACK AT ALL, ALFRED.

I'M THROUGH WITH COLLEGE.

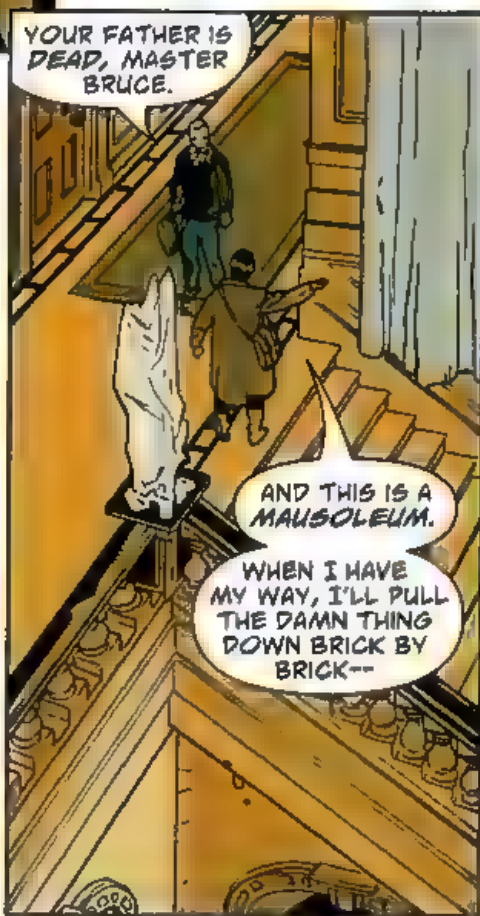


DON'T YOU LIKE IT THERE?

I LIKE IT JUST FINE. I JUST DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY.

I'M NOT LEARNING ANYTHING USEFUL THERE.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO FOLLOW IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS.



YOUR FATHER IS DEAD, MASTER BRUCE.

AND THIS IS A MAUSOLEUM.

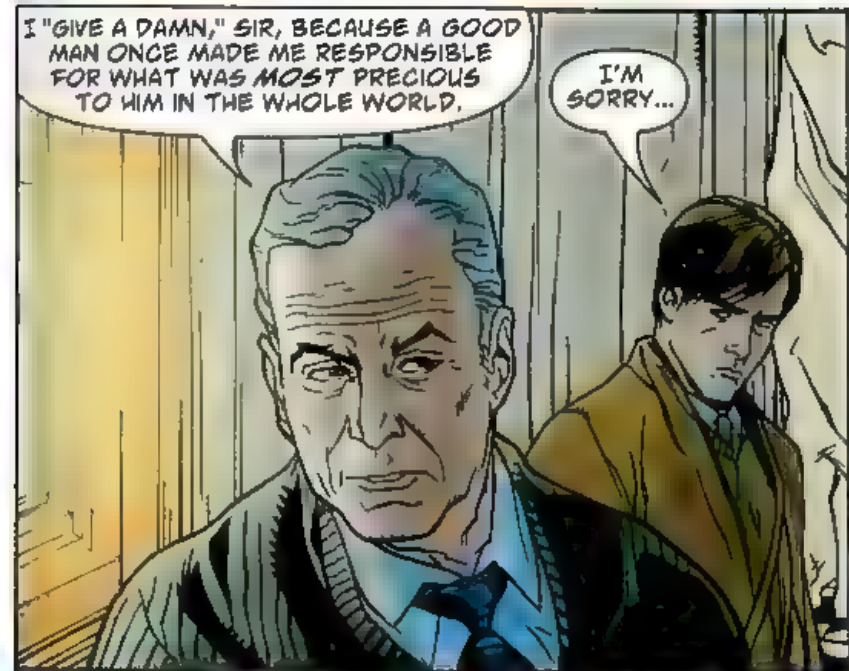
WHEN I HAVE MY WAY, I'LL PULL THE DAMN THING DOWN BRICK BY BRICK--



THIS HOUSE, MASTER BRUCE, HAS SHELTERED SIX GENERATIONS OF THE WAYNE FAMILY.

WHY DO YOU GIVE A DAMN?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAMILY, ALFRED.



I "GIVE A DAMN," SIR, BECAUSE A GOOD MAN ONCE MADE ME RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WAS MOST PRECIOUS TO HIM IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

I'M SORRY...



I'M JUST HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING A DIRECTION...



ALFRED STILL KEEPS THE SWEET STUFF ON THE TOP SHELF.

HASN'T HE NOTICED THAT YOU'RE TALL ENOUGH TO REACH NOW?

NEVER USED TO STOP US ANYWAY.

NO. NO, IT DIDN'T...



YOU STILL TRYING TO GET KICKED OUT OF THE ENTIRE IVY LEAGUE?

TURNS OUT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY NEED A DEGREE TO DO THE INTERNATIONAL PLAYBOY THING.

SO THAT'S ALL YOU WANT-- TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYBOY? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE GREAT KID I KNEW.

WELL... IT'S NOT REALLY WHO I AM, BUT I CAN PLAY THE PART.

BRUCE, IT'S NOT WHO YOU ARE UNDERNEATH BUT WHAT YOU DO THAT DEFINES YOU.

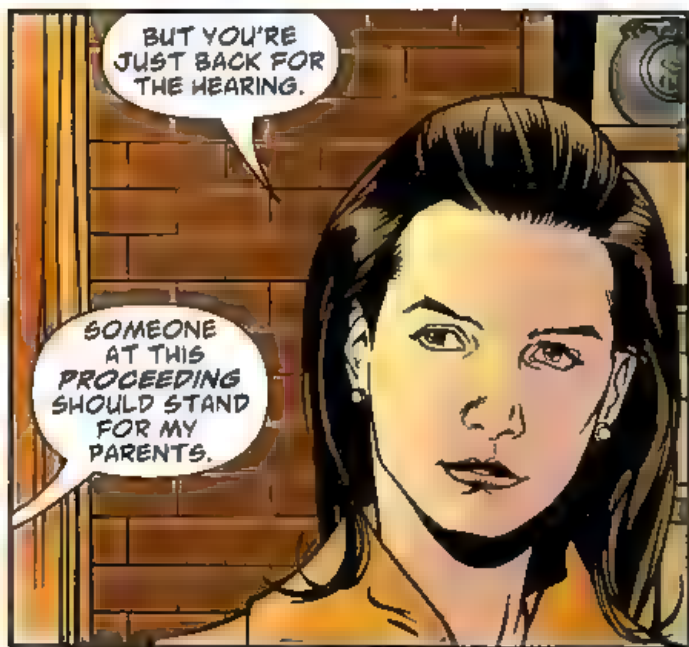


BUT YOU INTERN AT THE D.A.'S OFFICE. QUITE THE OVERACHIEVER.

AND YOU?

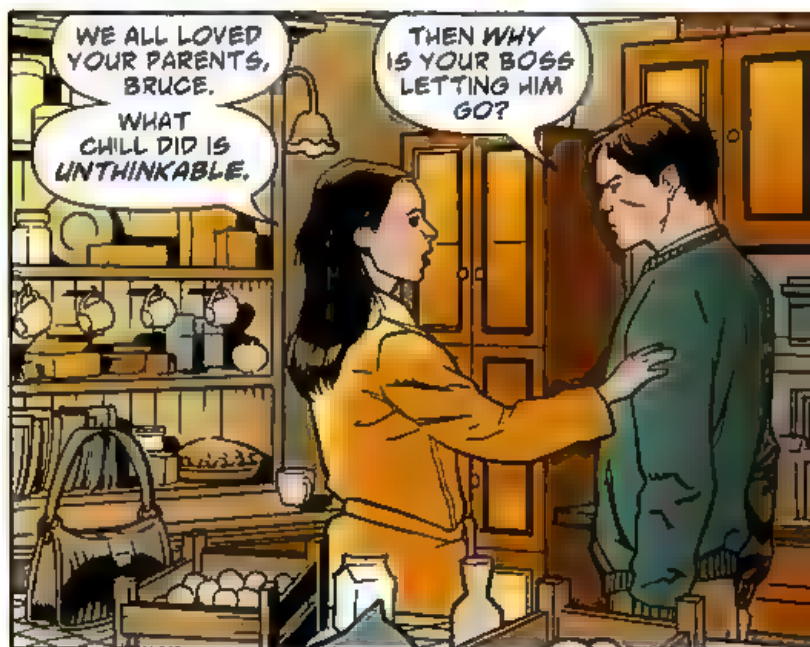
I'M NOT STAYING, RACHEL.

OH, I THOUGHT MAYBE THIS TIME...



BUT YOU'RE JUST BACK FOR THE HEARING.

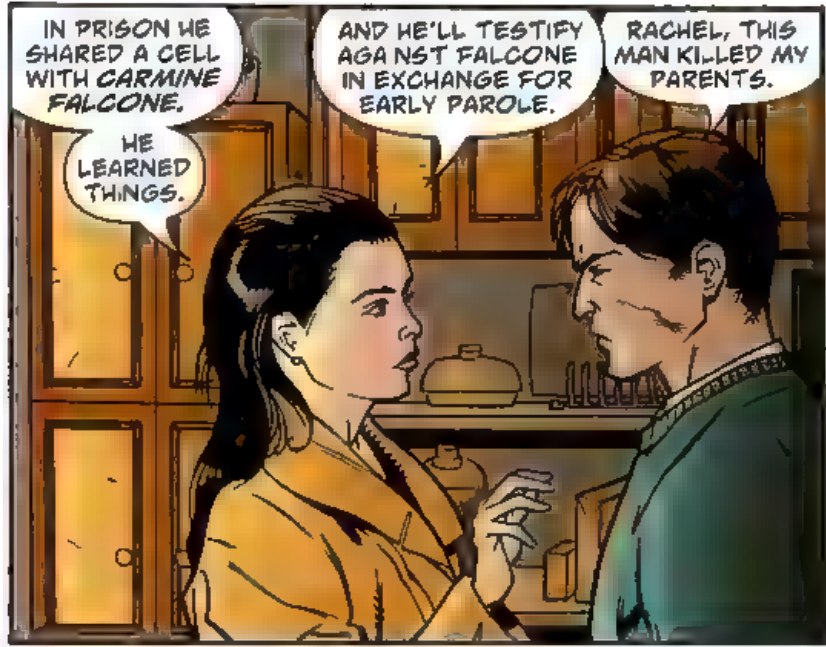
SOMEONE AT THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD STAND FOR MY PARENTS.



WE ALL LOVED YOUR PARENTS, BRUCE.

WHAT CHILL DID IS UNTHINKABLE.

THEN WHY IS YOUR BOSS LETTING HIM GO?



IN PRISON HE SHARED A CELL WITH CARMINE FALCONE.

HE LEARNED THINGS.

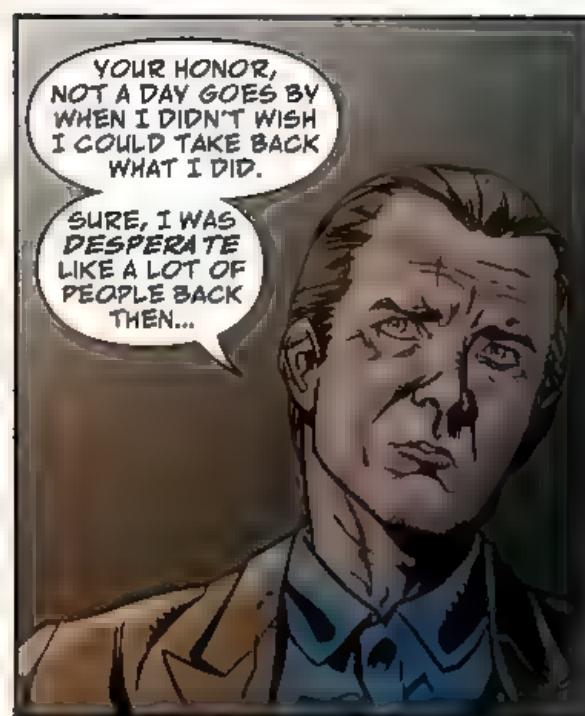
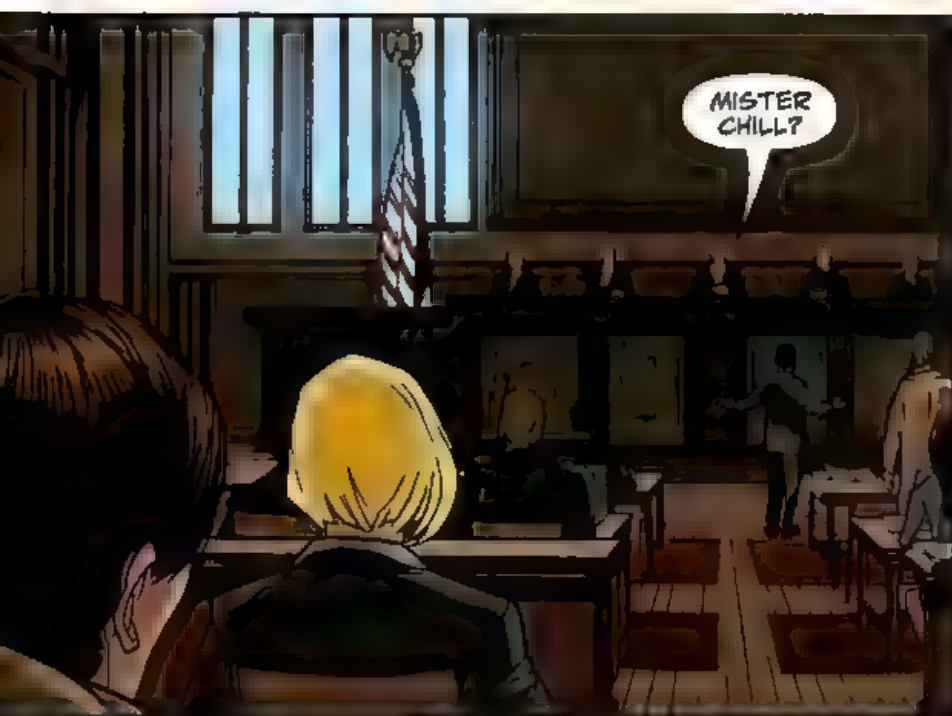
AND HE'LL TESTIFY AGAINST FALCONE IN EXCHANGE FOR EARLY PAROLE.

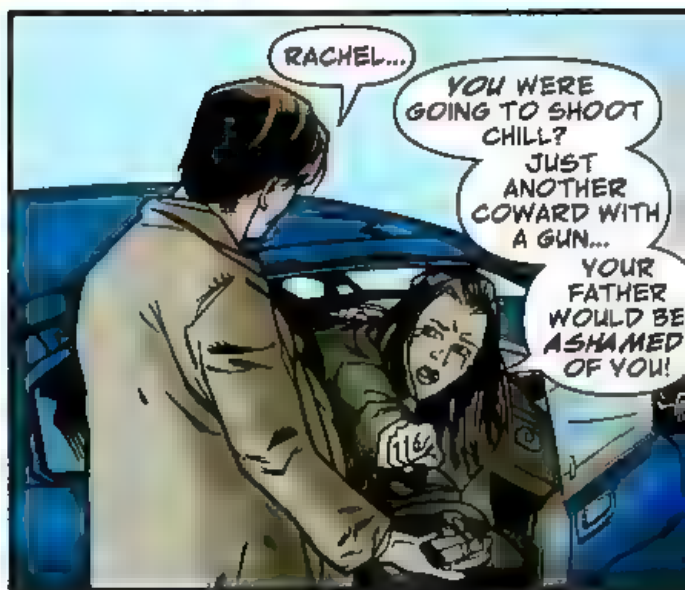
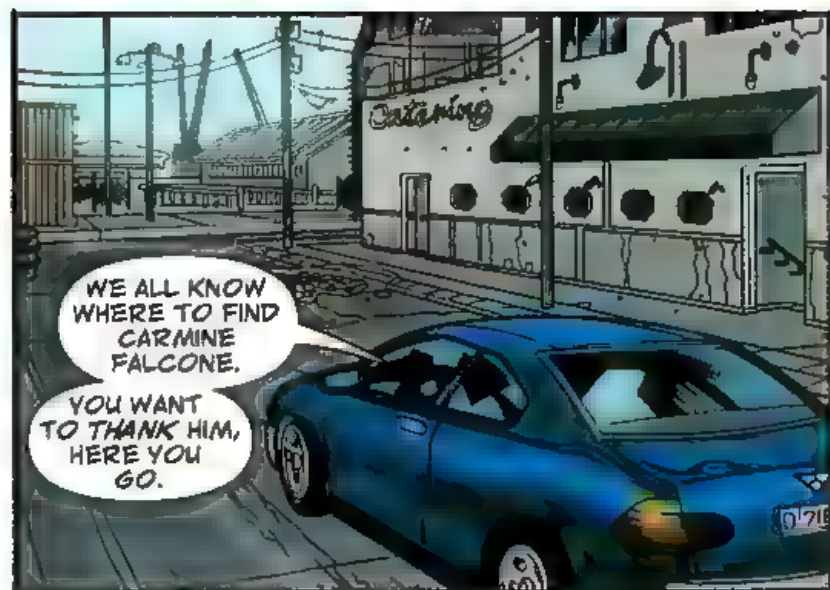
RACHEL, THIS MAN KILLED MY PARENTS.

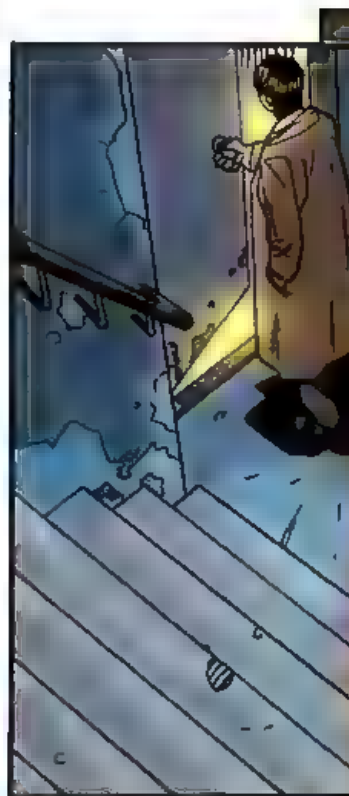


I CANNOT LET THAT PASS.

I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND.



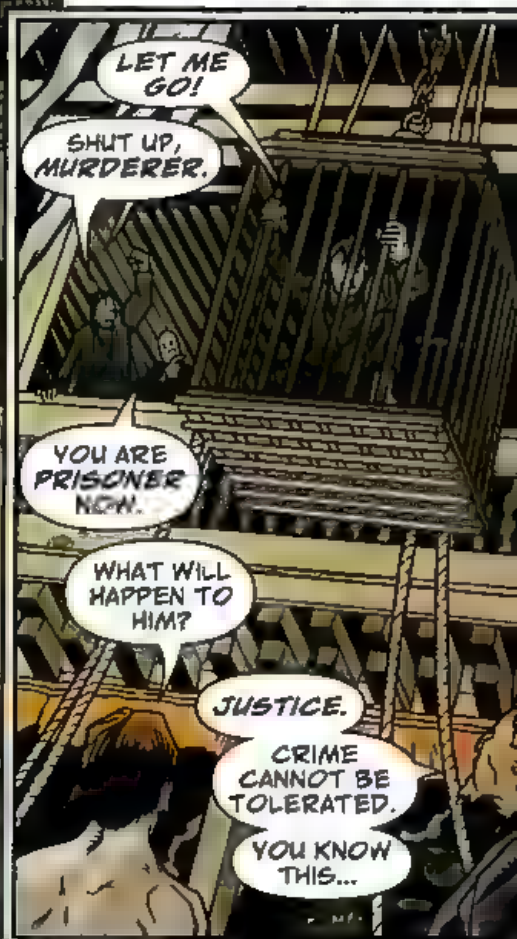






CHILDISH,
WAYNE.

OOF!



LET ME
GO!

SHUT UP,
MURDERER.

YOU ARE
PRISONER
NOW.

WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO
HIM?

JUSTICE.

CRIME
CANNOT BE
TOLERATED.

YOU KNOW
THIS...

"...OR WHEN YOU LIVED
AMONG CRIMINALS, DID YOU
START TO PITY THEM?"



THE FIRST TIME
YOU STEAL SO
THAT YOU DON'T
STARVE...

...YOU LOSE MANY
ASSUMPTIONS
ABOUT THE SIMPLE
NATURE OF RIGHT
AND WRONG.



AS I TRAVELED, I FELT
BOTH THE FEAR BEFORE
A CRIME AND THE THRILL
OF SUCCESS...



...WITHOUT
BECOMING ONE
OF THEM.

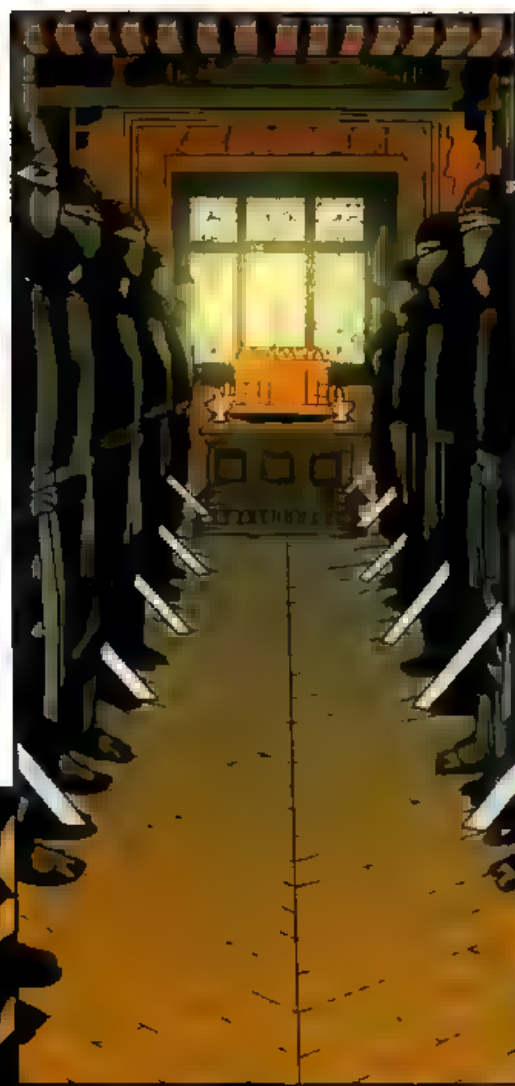
WHERE'S
YOUR
FRIEND?

NOT
FRIEND...
FRIEND
OF
FRIEND.

(FLEE
AND YOU
WILL BE
SHOT!)



"SO YOU TRAVELED
THE WORLD TO
UNDERSTAND THE
CRIMINAL MIND AND
CONQUER YOUR
FEAR..."





YOU MUST
BASK IN THE
FEAR OF OTHER
MEN.



AND MEN FEAR
MOST WHAT THEY
CANNOT SEE.
BECOME
ONE WITH
THE DARK-
NESS.



YOU
CANNOT
LEAVE ANY
SIGN.



I
HAVEN'T.



(WE HAVE
PURGED YOUR
FEAR.)
YOU ARE READY
TO BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE
LEAGUE OF
SHADOWS.



BUT FIRST YOU
MUST DEMONSTRATE
YOUR COMMITMENT
TO JUSTICE.

I'M NO
EXECUTIONER.

YOUR
COMPASSION IS
A WEAKNESS YOUR
ENEMIES WON'T
SHARE.



IT
SEPARATES
ME FROM
THEM.



YOU CANNOT
DEFEAT EVIL UNLESS
YOU ARE PREPARED TO
DO WHATEVER IS
NECESSARY.

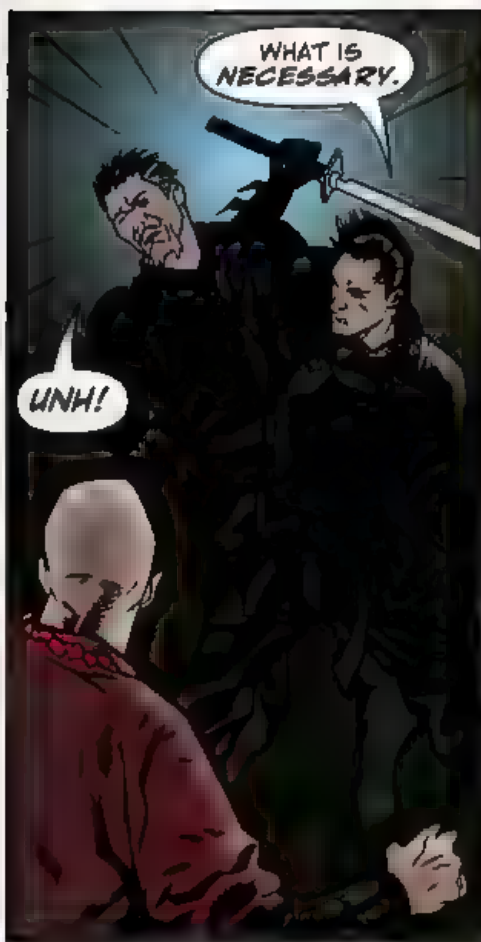
GOTHAM CITY'S
TIME HAS COME. IT IS
BEYOND SAVING. IT MUST BE
ALLOWED TO DIE, LIKE ROME
OR CONSTANTINOPLE
BEFORE IT.

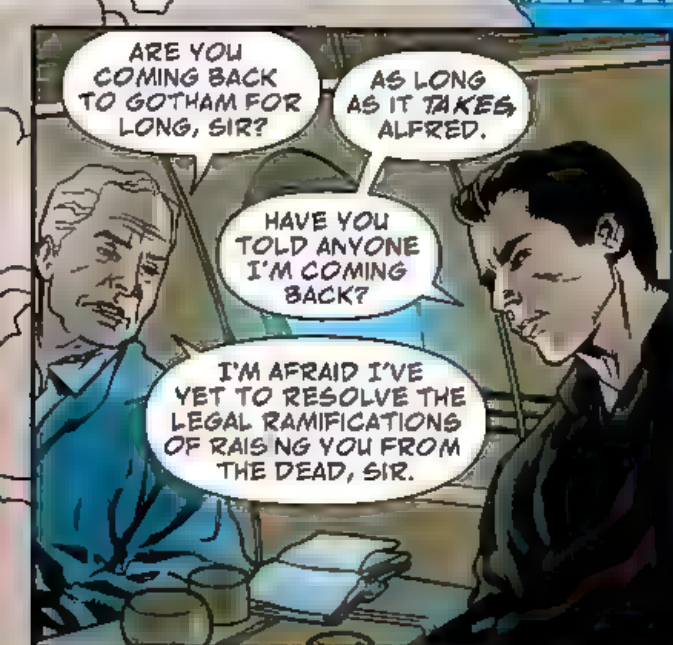
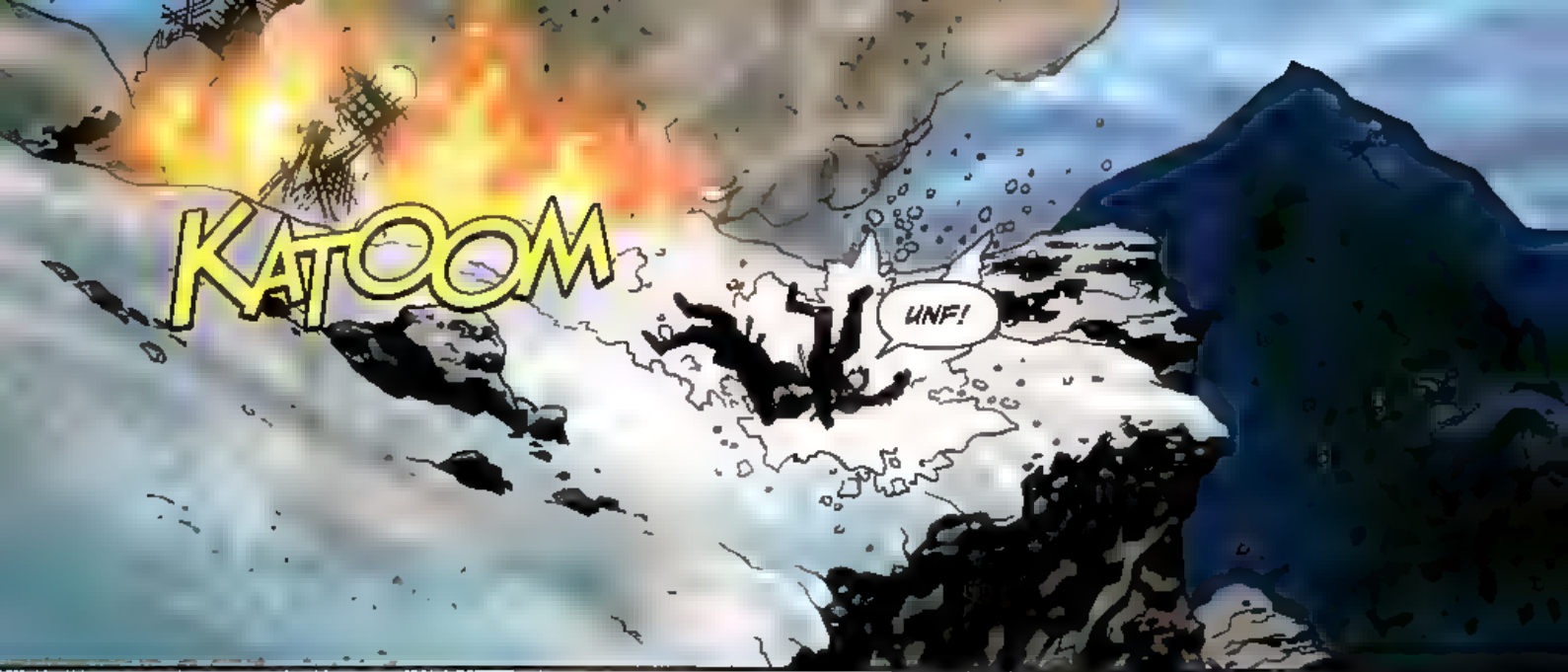
I'LL GO BACK
TO GOTHAM. I'LL
FIGHT MEN LIKE
THIS--

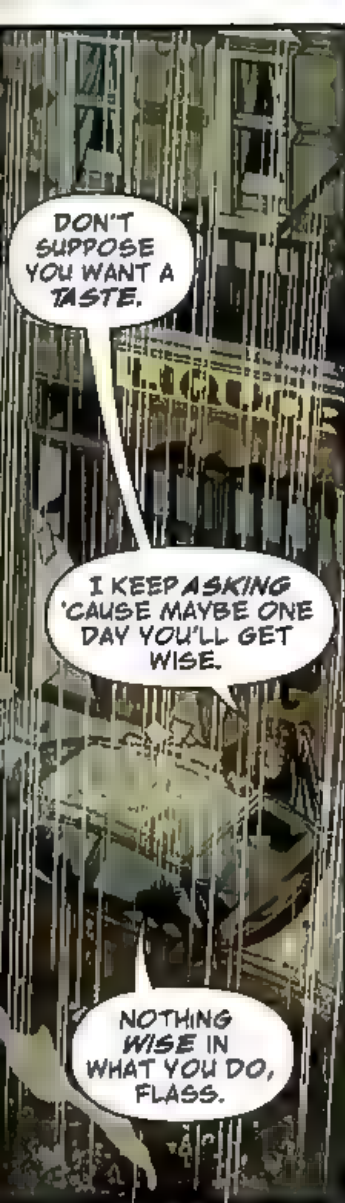


--BUT I
WON'T BE A
KILLER.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?







DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU WANT A
TASTE.

I KEEP ASKING
'CAUSE MAYBE ONE
DAY YOU'LL GET
WISE.

NOTHING
WISE IN
WHAT YOU DO,
FLASS.



IN MY OPINION, MR. ZSAZ
IS AS MUCH A DANGER
TO HIMSELF AS TO
OTHERS--

--AND PRISON
IS PROBABLY NOT THE
BEST ENVIRONMENT FOR
HIS REHABILITATION.



YEAH?

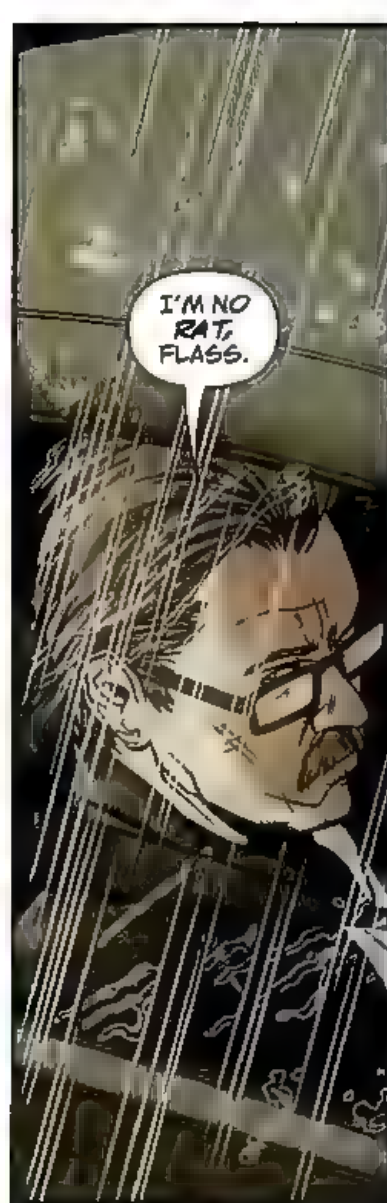
WELL,
JIMBO...YOU
DON'T TAKE
YOUR TASTE
AND IT MAKES
US GUYS
NERVOUS.

YOU MIGHT
DECIDE TO ROLL
OVER--



DR. CRANE, THIS IS THE
THIRD OF CARMINE
FALCONE'S THUGS THAT
YOU'VE SEEN FIT TO HAVE
DECLARED INSANE AND
MOVED INTO YOUR
ASYLUM.

THE WORK
OFFERED BY OR-
GANIZED CRIME HAS AN
ATTRACTION TO
THE INSANE.



I'M NO
RAT,
FLASS.



OR THE
CORRUPT.

MR. FINCH, I
THINK YOU SHOULD
CHECK WITH MISS
DAWES ON JUST
WHAT IMPLICATIONS
YOUR OFFICE HAS
AUTHORIZED HER
TO MAKE--

--IF ANY.



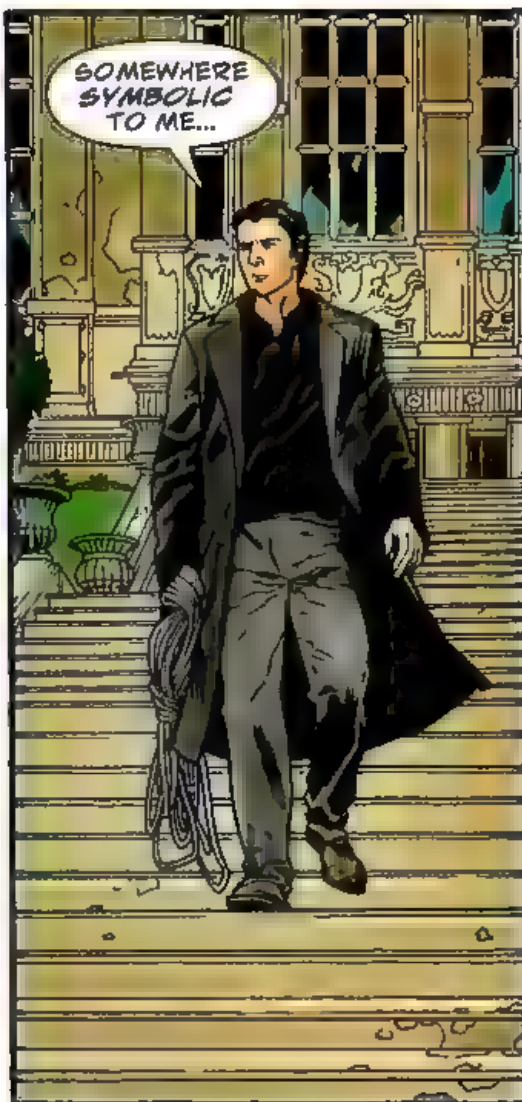
IN A TOWN
THIS BENT,
WHO'S THERE
TO RAT TO
ANYWAY?

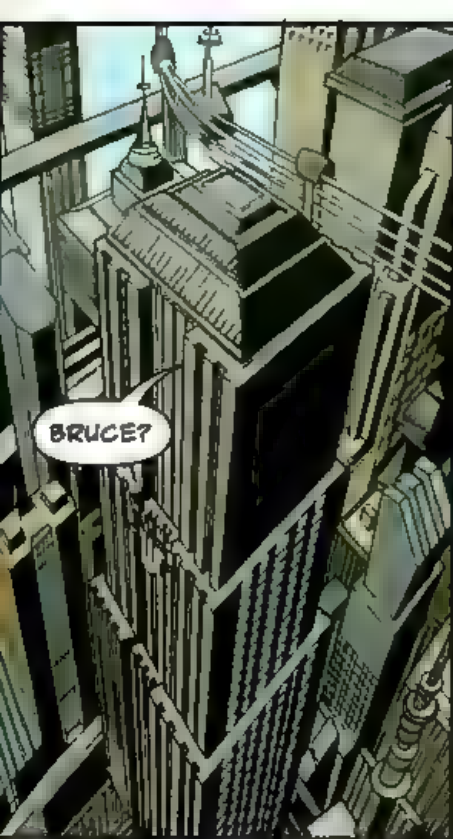


WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
RACHEL?

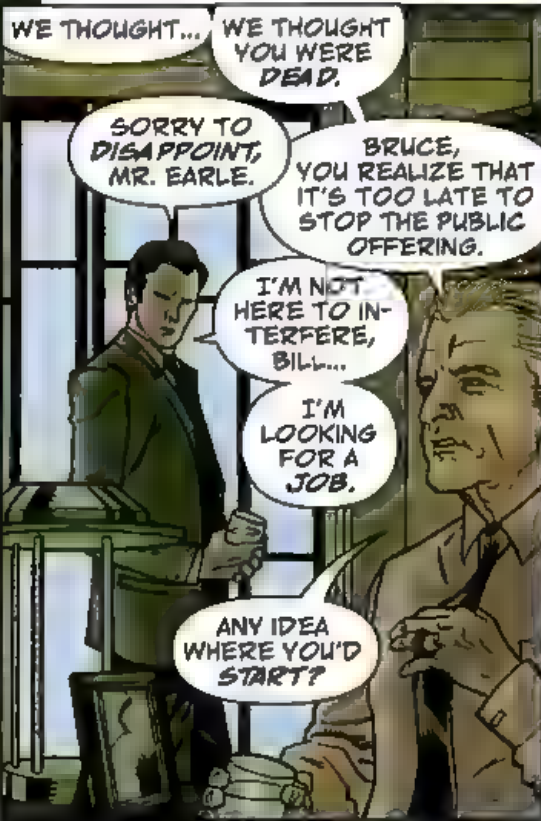
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
CARL?

LOOKING OUT
FOR YOU. MUCH AS I
CARE ABOUT GETTING
FALCONE, I CARE MORE
ABOUT YOU.





BRUCE?



WE THOUGHT...

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, MR. EARLE.

BRUCE, YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP THE PUBLIC OFFERING.

I'M NOT HERE TO INTERFERE, BILL...

I'M LOOKING FOR A JOB.

ANY IDEA WHERE YOU'D START?

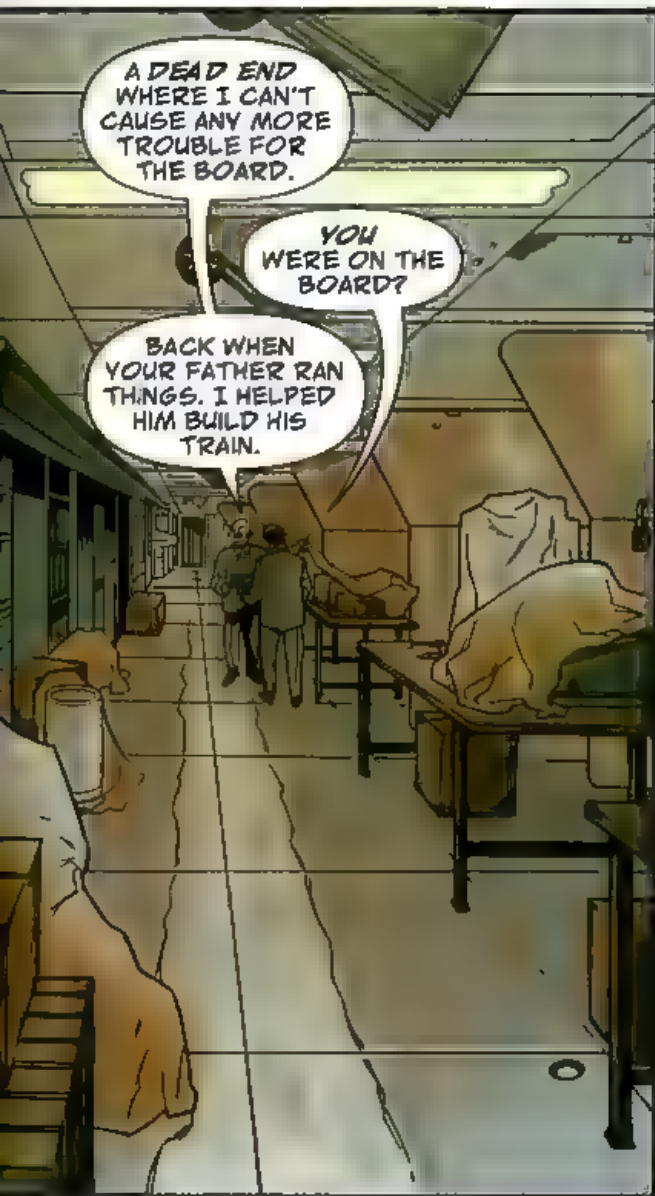


ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS... DEFENSE PROJECTS... CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

ALL PROTOTYPES, NONE IN PRODUCTION WHATSOEVER.

NONE?

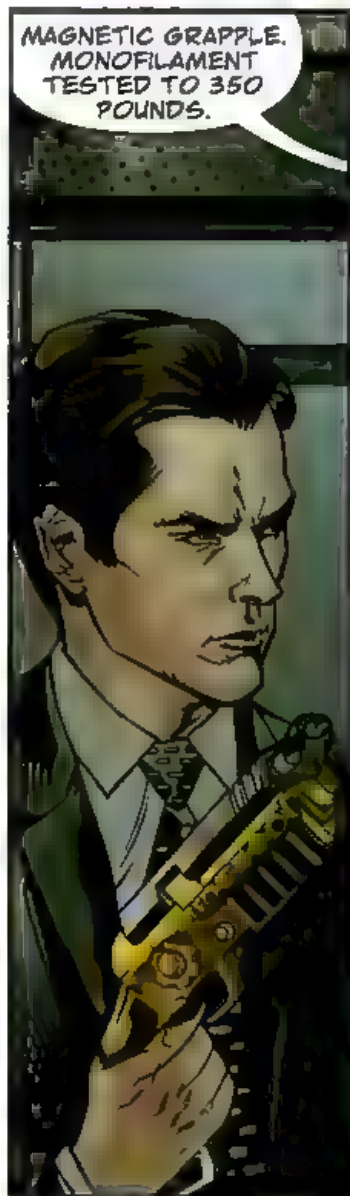
DIDN'T THEY TELL YOU WHAT THIS PLACE IS?



A DEAD END WHERE I CAN'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR THE BOARD.

YOU WERE ON THE BOARD?

BACK WHEN YOUR FATHER RAN THINGS. I HELPED HIM BUILD HIS TRAIN.



MAGNETIC GRAPPLE. MONOFILAMENT TESTED TO 350 POUNDS.



THIS IS A NOMEK SURVIVAL SUIT FOR ADVANCED INFANTRY.

BULLET-PROOF?

ANYTHING BUT A STRAIGHT SHOT.

TEAR-RESISTANT?

THIS SUCKER'LL STOP A KNIFE.



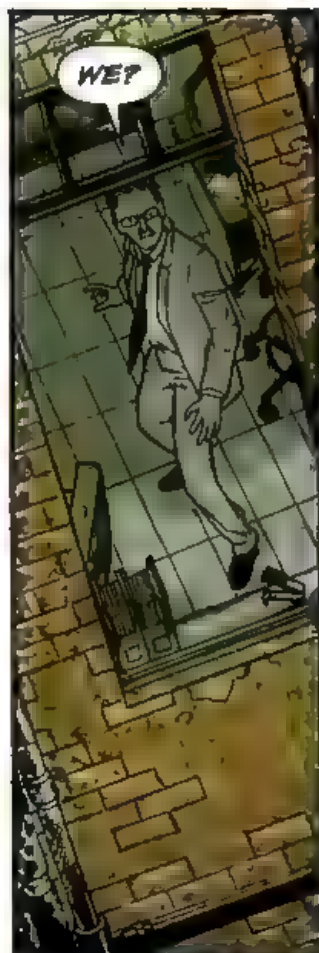
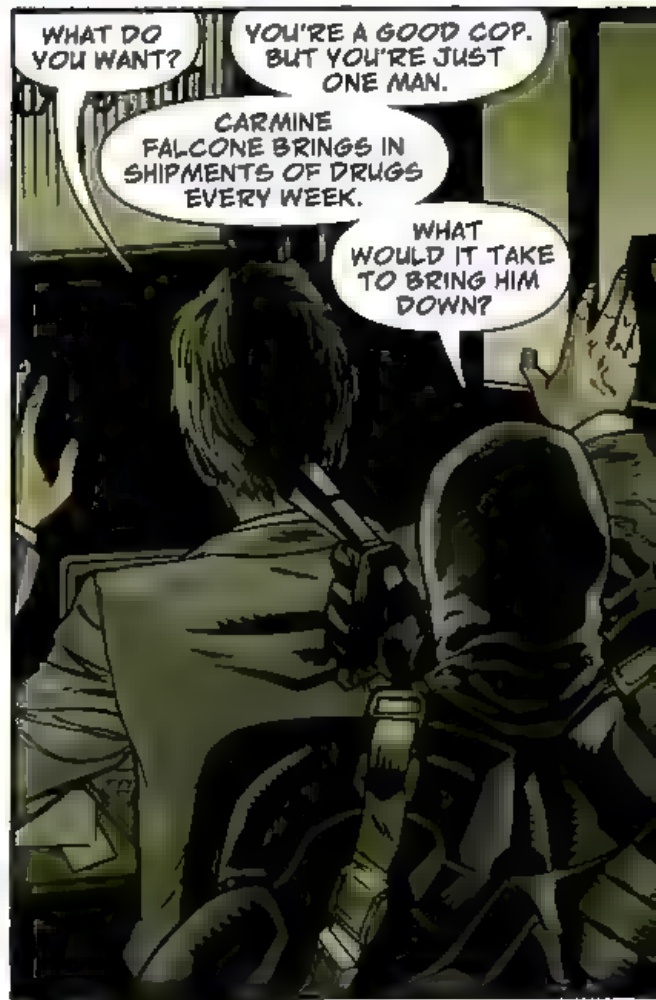
WAY I FIGURE IT, ALL THIS STUFF IS YOURS ANYWAY...

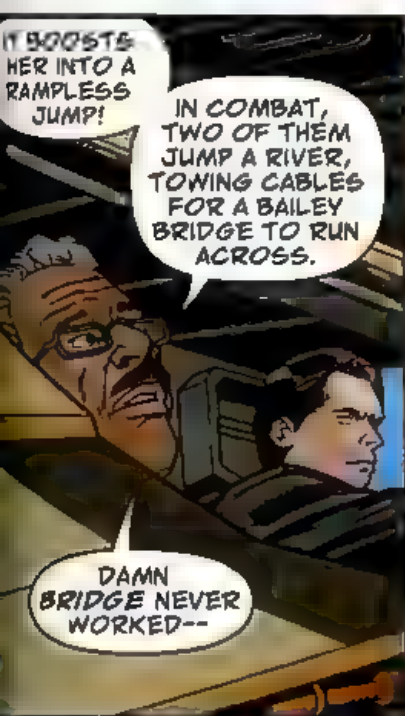
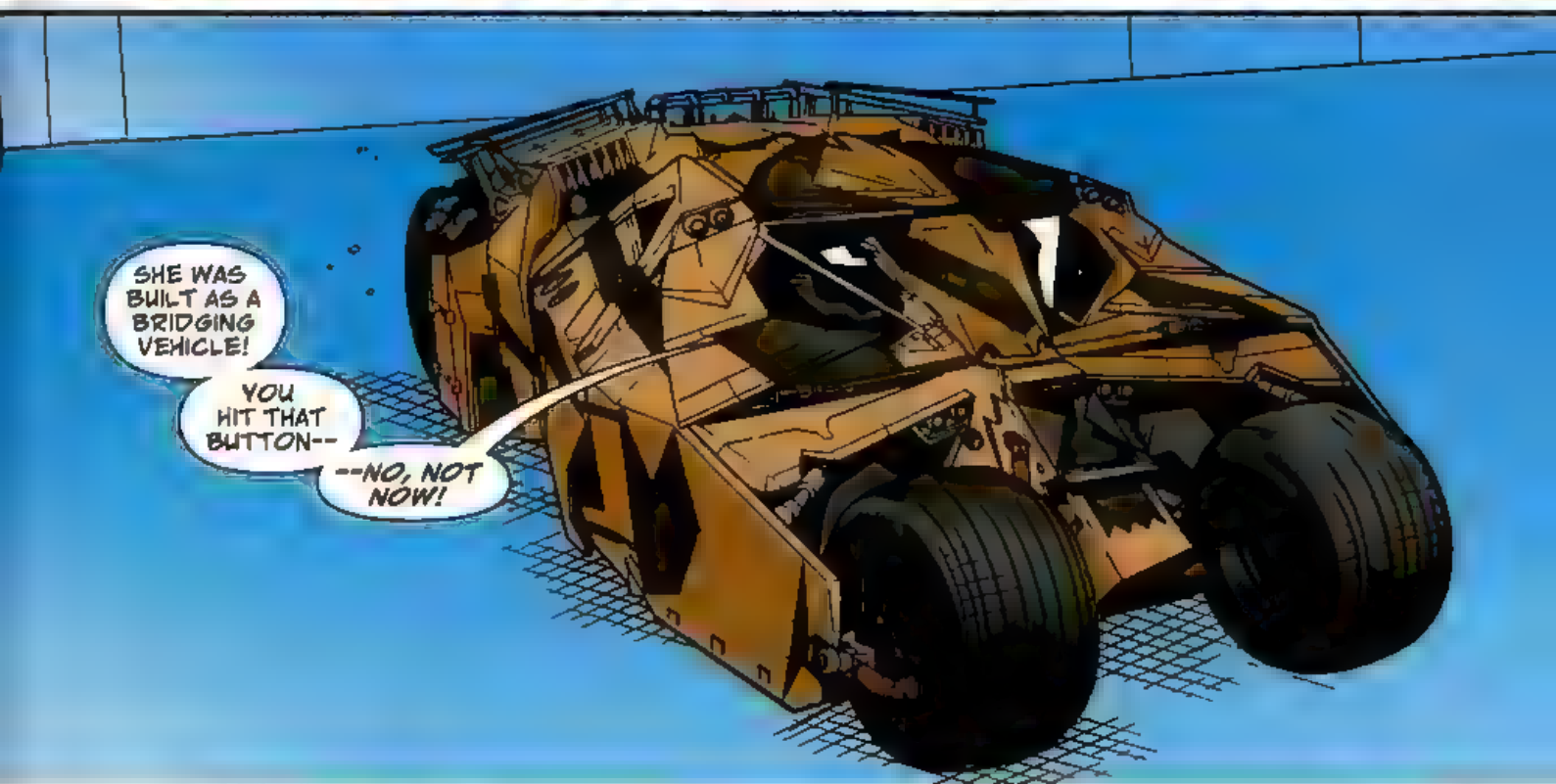
BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH IT, MR. WAYNE?

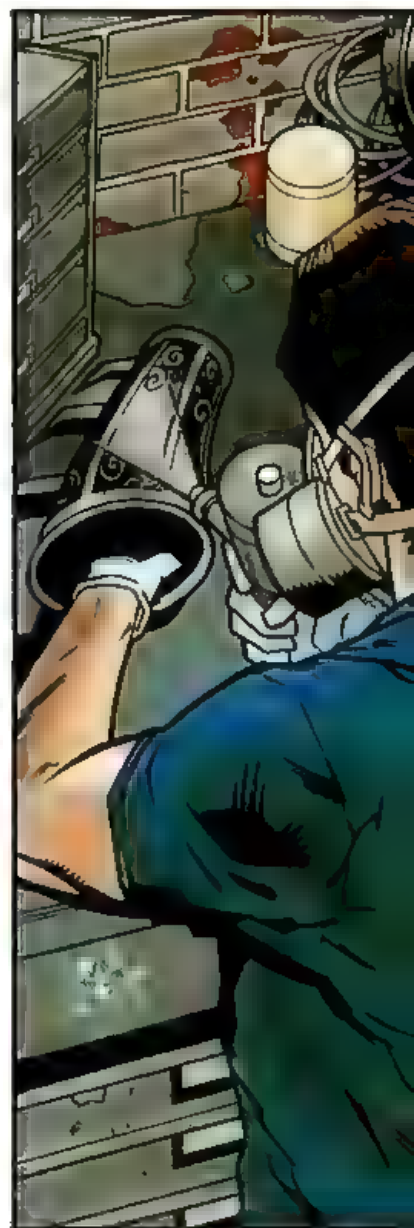
FOR SPELUNKING.

YOU KNOW, CAVE-DIVING.

MAYBE A LITTLE ROCK-CLIMBING, TOO...









SO THE BEARS GO STRAIGHT TO THE DEALERS?

AND THE RABBITS GO TO OUR MAN IN THE NARROWS.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? SAME DRUGS, RIGHT?

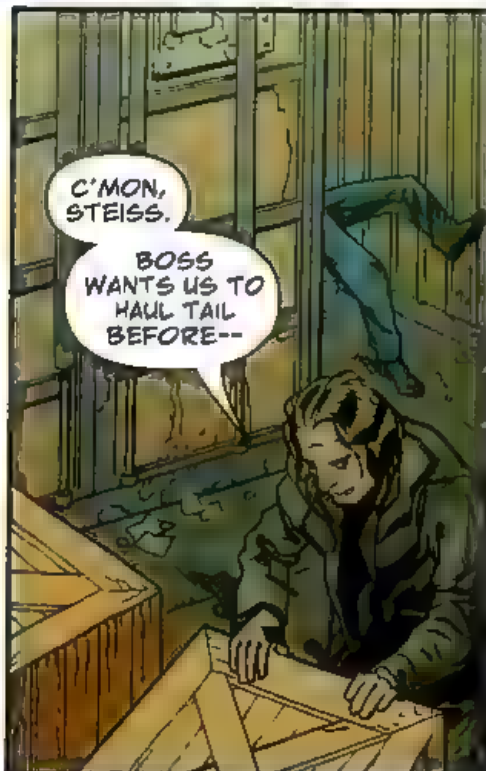
IGNORANCE IS BLISS, MY FRIEND.



DON'T BURDEN YOURSELF WITH THE SECRETS OF SCARY PEOPLE, FLASS.

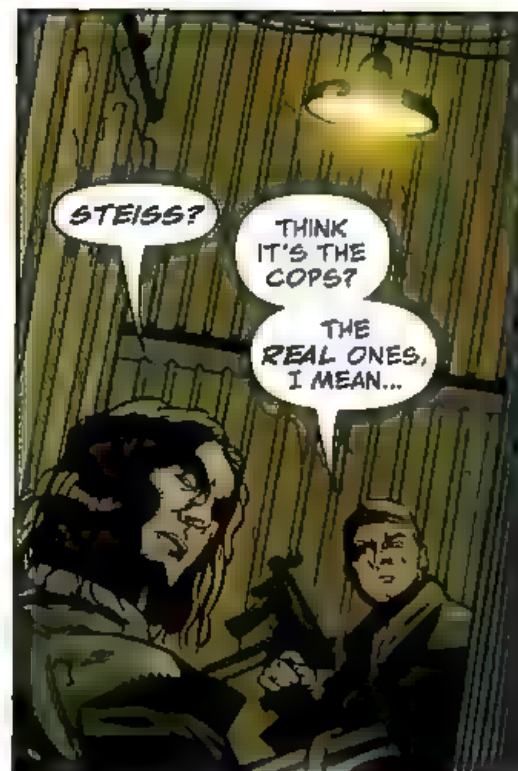
SCARIER THAN YOU?

CONSIDERABLY SCARIER THAN ME.



C'MON, STEISS.

BOSS WANTS US TO HAUL TAIL BEFORE--



STEISS?

THINK IT'S THE COPS?

THE REAL ONES, I MEAN...



WHERE ARE YOU?!



HERE.



SOMETHIN' BAD'S HAPPENIN' OUT THERE!

LET'S GO!

WHU-MA!



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

I'M BATMAN.

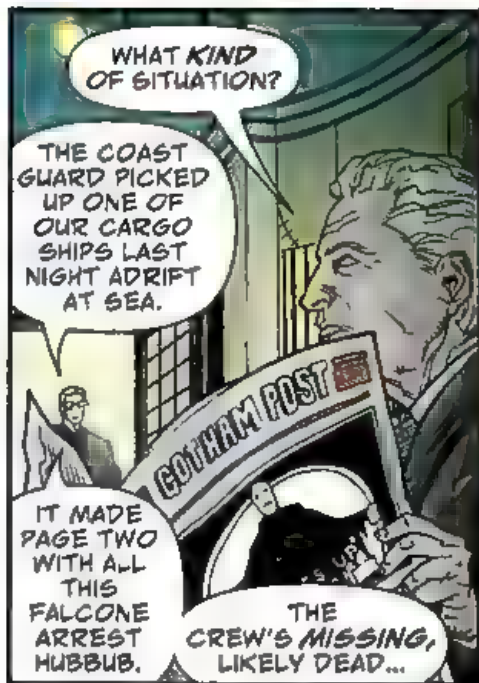


JEEZ...

KINDA LOOKS LIKE A--

CUT HIM DOWN.

WE'VE GOT A MAJOR SITUATION HERE...

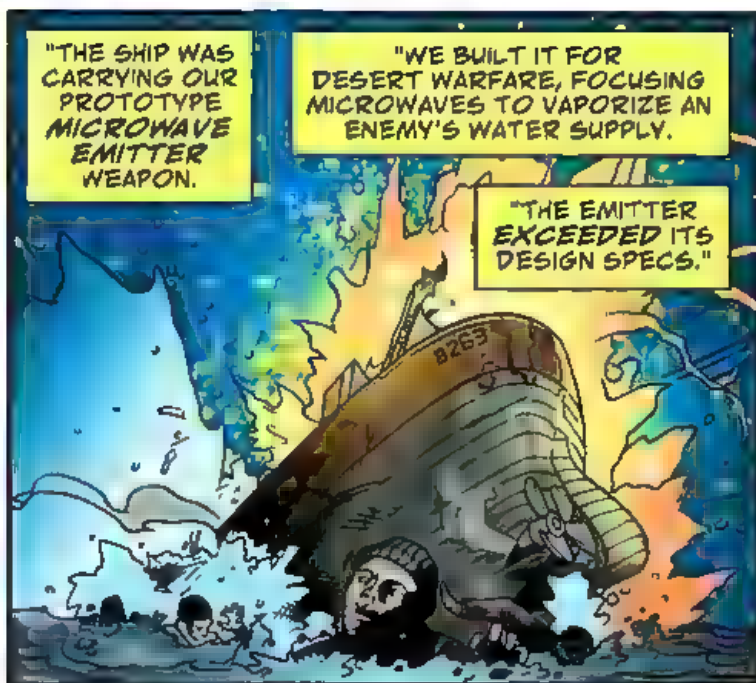


WHAT KIND OF SITUATION?

THE COAST GUARD PICKED UP ONE OF OUR CARGO SHIPS LAST NIGHT ADRIPT AT SEA.

IT MADE PAGE TWO WITH ALL THIS FALCONE ARREST HUBBUB.

THE CREW'S MISSING, LIKELY DEAD...



"THE SHIP WAS CARRYING OUR PROTOTYPE MICROWAVE EMITTER WEAPON."

"WE BUILT IT FOR DESERT WARFARE, FOCUSING MICROWAVES TO VAPORIZE AN ENEMY'S WATER SUPPLY."

"THE EMITTER EXCEEDED ITS DESIGN SPECS."



AND NOW IT'S MISSING...

DR. CRANE, IT'S ALL TOO MUCH...THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN...BLAH-BLAH-BLAH.

YES, YES, MISTER FALCONE...YOU HAVE ALL THE EARMARKS OF MANIC PARANOIA.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU AND YOUR BOSS ARE GONNA CONVINCE ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

I'VE BEEN SMUGGLING YOUR STUFF IN FOR MONTHS. WHATEVER HE'S GOT PLANNED, I WANT IN.

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY--

--THAT WE SHOULD KILL YOU.

EVEN HE CAN'T TOUCH ME IN HERE.

NOT IN MY TOWN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MY MASK?

I USE IT IN MY EXPERIMENTS.

PROBABLY NOT VERY FRIGHTENING TO A MAN LIKE YOU, FALCONE.

BUT MY PATIENTS CAN'T STAND IT.

CRIPES, CRANE...

WHEN DID THE NUT TAKE OVER THE ASYLUM?

ADD A DASH OF MY SPECIAL FEAR TOXIN, WHICH I MUST THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SUPPLY THE FINAL INGREDIENT, THAT WONDERFUL BLUE POWDER...

AND THEY SCREAM AND CRY--

PISH

--MUCH AS YOU'RE DOING NOW.

NOW, SHALL WE SHUFFLE OFF TO ARKHAM?

AAAAAAAAA!

"I HAVE MORE
PRESSING
BUSINESS IN THE
NARROWS."

BINGO.
DOWN A
RABBIT-
HOLE.

WHERE
ARE THE
DRUGS?

GET RID
OF ALL
TRACES.

I DON'T WANT
TO HEAR ABOUT
AS MUCH AS A
SINGLE BIT OF
SINGED STUFFING
TURNING UP.

WE'LL
TORCH THE
WHOLE--

IT'S
HIM! THE
BAT!

JEEZ!

WHUF!

AMATEURS...

MUST I
TIE UP EVERY
LOOSE END
MYSELF?

I DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU SUFFER FROM
PYROPHOBIA?

WHAT ARE
THE PAPERS
CALLING
YOU...

BATMAN?

GIH...
GIH...

YOU
MUST BE COLD,
SOPPING WET AS
YOU ARE...

NEED A
LIGHT?

ALFRED...

NEED
LUCKS...

POISONED...



MISTER FOX'S ANTIDOTE SEEMS TO HAVE CURED YOU OF THOSE WAKING NIGHT TERRORS, MASTER BRUCE.

PERHAPS I SHOULD CANCEL THE PARTY--

NO, BUT HAVE LUCIUS SYNTHESIZE MORE OF THE ANTI-TOXIN.

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

BRUCE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



UP ALL NIGHT PARTYING BEFORE YOUR BIRTHDAY BASH?

BASH IS RIGHT. ARE YOU STAVING FOR MY PARTY?

SORRY, I WAS JUST DROPPING OFF YOUR PRESENT. WORK IS CRAZY RIGHT--

DEET-DEET-DEET



WHAT?!

WHO AUTHORIZED FALCONE'S TRANSFER TO ARKHAM?



SCARECROW... SCARECROW...

UNDERSTANDABLY, I'VE PLACED MISTER FALCONE ON SUICIDE WATCH.

WHAT'S "SCARECROW"?

PATIENTS SUFFERING DELUSIONAL EPISODES OFTEN FOCUS THEIR PARANOIA ON AN EXTERNAL TORMENTOR, USUALLY ONE CONFORMING TO THE CLASSICAL JUNGIAN ARCHETYPES--



--IN THIS CASE, A SCARECROW.

I'VE ALREADY PAGED DR. LEHMANN AT COUNTY GENERAL FOR A SECOND OPINION, DR. CRANE.

AS YOU WISH...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL WAIT IN THE--



--LOBBY?

NOT THE LOBBY, MY DEAR.

THIS IS WHERE WE MAKE THE MEDICINE.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRY SOME...



IT WILL HELP YOU CLEAR YOUR HEAD.

PISH



WHO KNOWS YOU'RE HERE?

WHO KNOWS?!



"IT DOESN'T
MATTER."

"I'VE
SUMMONED
GOTHAM'S
FINEST TO
GREET ANY
FOOLISH
RESCUERS "



ESPECIALLY
THOSE WITH
LEATHERY
WINGS.

WE
BETTER
SCRAM,
DOC.



SWAT
COPS ARE
GONNA BE HERE
ANY MIN--



YOU
AGAIN?
BACK
FOR
MORE?

FISH



I'VE CONQUERED
ALL MY FEARS,
CRANE.

LET
GO OF
ME!

TASTE
OF YOUR OWN
MEDICINE,
DOCTOR?



NOT THE
GAS!

FISH



WHO
ARE YOU
WORKING
FOR?

RA'S...
RA'S...AL
GHUL...

RA'S AL
GHUL IS DEAD,
CRANE!

WHO ARE
YOU REALLY
WORKING
FOR?!

CRANE!

BATMAN!
YOU'RE SURROUNDED
PUT DOWN YOUR
WEAPONS AND
SURRENDER!

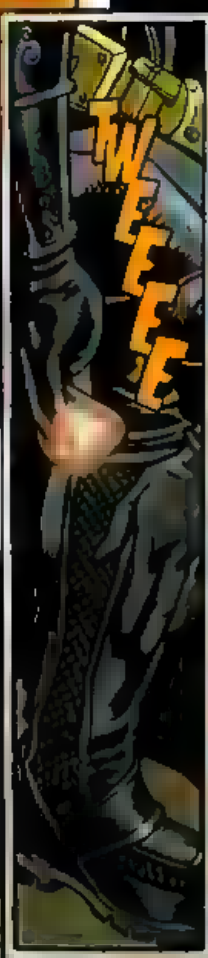


YOU COMING, FLOSS?

THOUGHT I'D WAIT FOR BACKUP, JIMBO.

MAYBE THE CAVALRY'LL SHOW AND HELP US TAKE DOWN YER PAL THE BAT.

I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS. THE REST OF YOU CLEAR THE ASYLUM FLOOR-BY-FLOOR.



SERGEANT GORDON...

WHO...

EASY, MISS DAWES... I RAN INTO YOU AND OUR MUTUAL FRIEND IN THE STAIRWELL. SAID YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL.

BIG SCARY GUY. DRESSES IN BLACK. HAS A THING FOR BATS.



WOO. I GOTTA GET ME ONE OF THOSE.

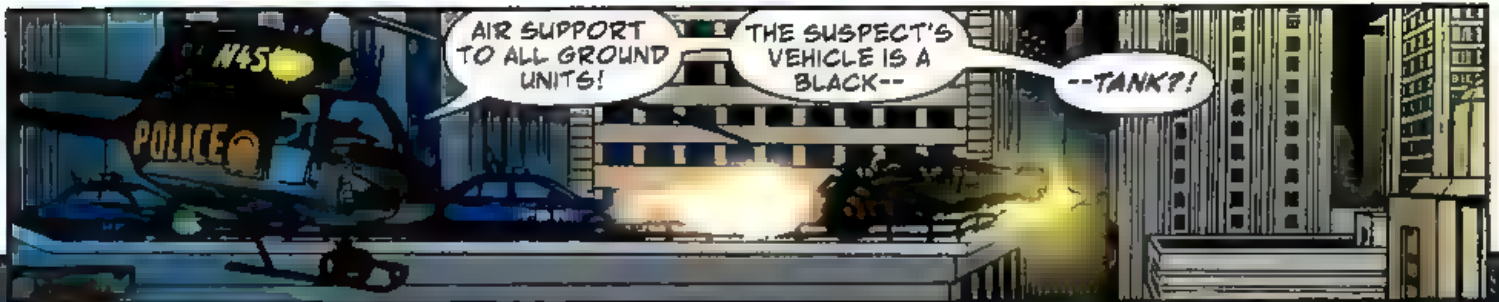
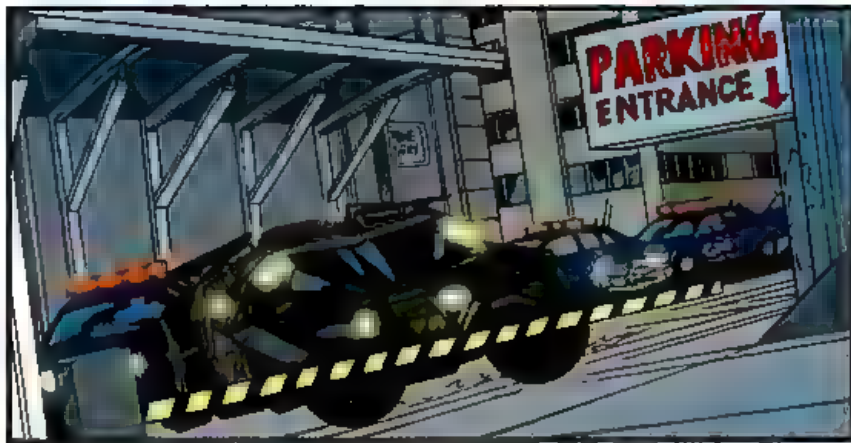
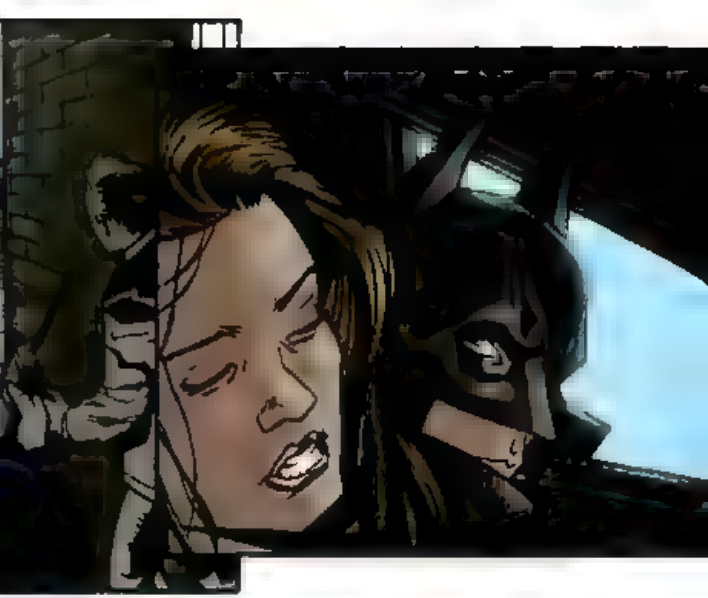
I'M TAKING HER BACK TO MY PLACE TO GIVE HER AN ANTITOXIN BEFORE THE DAMAGE TO HER PSYCHE IS PERMANENT.



YOUR PLACE?

DON'T ASK.

GOOD, BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO KNOW.





IS SERGEANT GORDON YOUR FRIEND?

I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF FRIENDS.

WHEN YOU WAKE UP I NEED YOU TO TAKE SAMPLES OF THE ANTIDOTE TO GORDON TO START MASS PRODUCTION.

I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS...



RACHEL'S DOWNSTAIRS. I NEED YOU TO TAKE HER HOME.

I FEAR YOU'RE GETTING LOST IN THIS CREATURE OF YOURS, MASTER BRUCE. IT CAN'T BE PERSONAL.

OR YOU'RE JUST A VIGILANTE

THERE'S MORE AT STAKE THAN JUST ME, ALFRED.



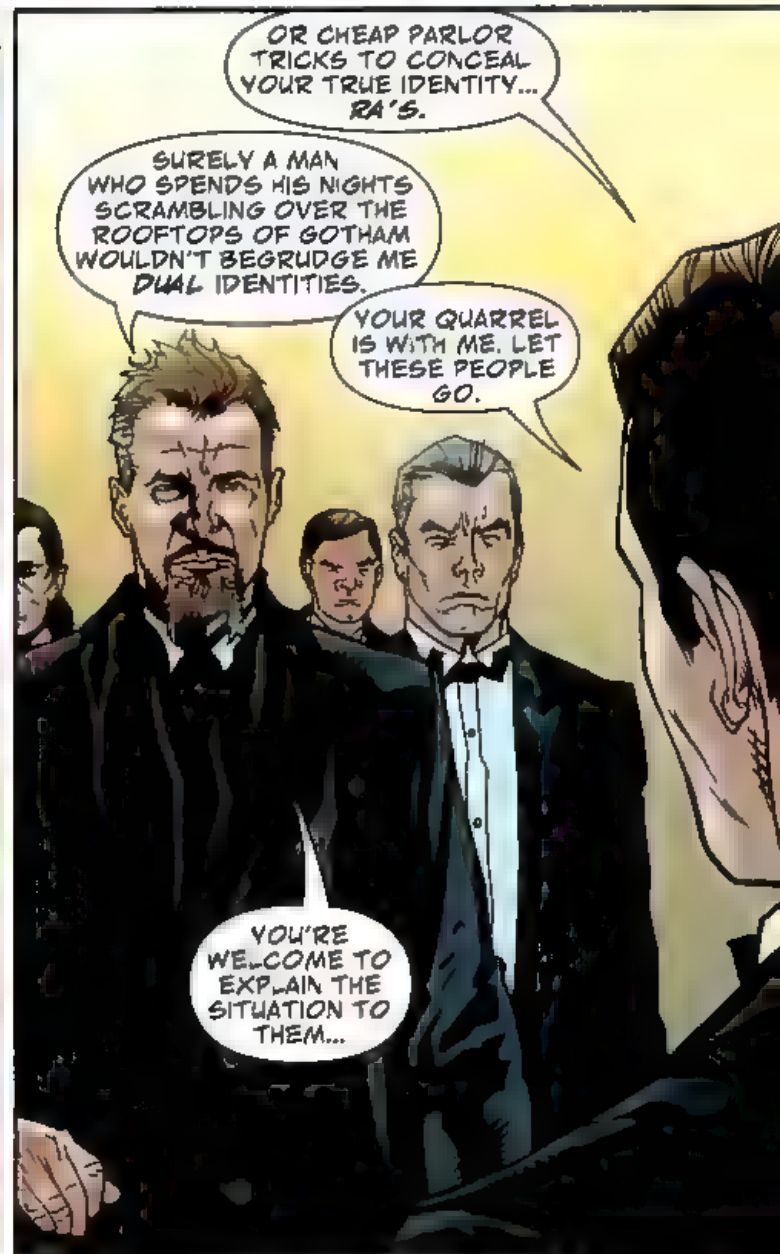
BRUCE, DARLING!

HAVE YOU MET MR. AL GHUL?

AM I PRONOUNCING IT RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT RA'S AL GHUL!

I CAN IMAGINE YOUR THOUGHTS. IS RA'S AL GHUL IMMORTAL? ARE HIS METHODS SUPERNATURAL?



OR CHEAP PARLOR TRICKS TO CONCEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY... RA'S.

SURELY A MAN WHO SPENDS HIS NIGHTS SCRAMBLING OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF GOTHAM WOULDN'T BEGRUDGE ME DUAL IDENTITIES.

YOUR QUARREL IS WITH ME. LET THESE PEOPLE GO.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THEM...



"PERHAPS WE COULD MOVE THE PARTY TO ARKHAM. THE STATUS QUO HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE YOU LAST VISITED THE ASYLUM. YOU'LL FIND THAT WE'VE INFILTRATED MANY LEVELS OF GOTHAM SOCIETY."



YOU FALSE FRIENDS WHO SMILE THROUGH YOUR TEETH AT ME...

YOU'VE HAD YOUR FILL OF MY HOSPITALITY.

NOW GET OUT! EVERYBODY! OUT!

AMUSING, BUT POINTLESS.

NONE OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE LONG TO LIVE.

GOTHAM DIES TONIGHT, WAYNE



THE APPLE HAS
FALLEN VERY FAR
FROM THE TREE,
BRUCE...

PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
GO EASIER
ON THE
CHAMPAGNE.

YOU'LL THANK
ME LATER,
FREDERICKS.

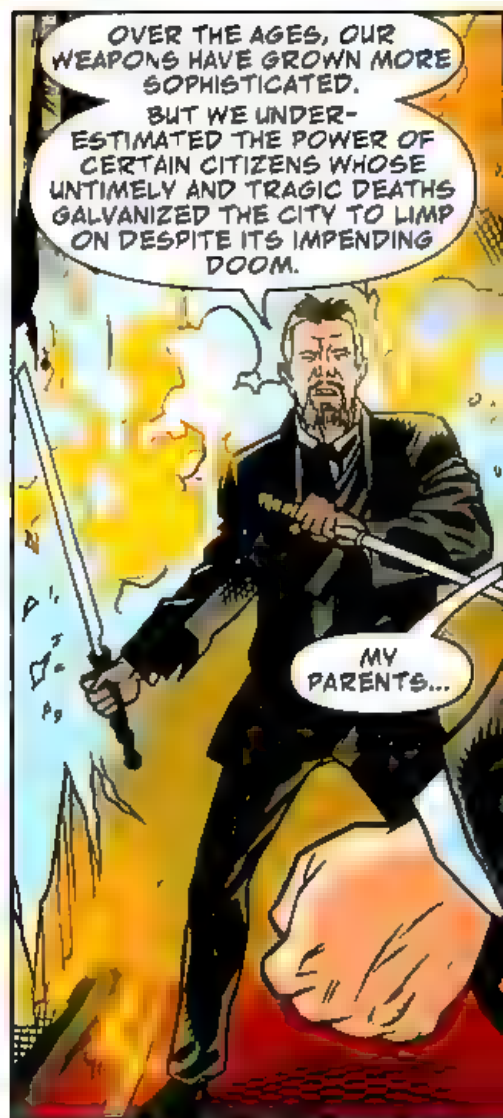


WHEN A FOREST GROWS TOO
WILD, A PURGING FIRE IS
INEVITABLE.

TOMORROW, THE
WORLD WILL WATCH IN
HORROR AS ITS GREATEST
CITY DESTROYS
ITSELF.

THE MOVEMENT
BACK TO
HARMONY WILL
BE UNSTOPPABLE
THIS TIME.

YOU'VE
TRIED TO
ATTACK GOTHAM
BEFORE?



OVER THE AGES, OUR
WEAPONS HAVE GROWN MORE
SOPHISTICATED.

BUT WE UNDER-
ESTIMATED THE POWER OF
CERTAIN CITIZENS WHOSE
UNTIMELY AND TRAGIC DEATHS
GALVANIZED THE CITY TO LIMP
ON DESPITE ITS IMPENDING
DOOM.

MY
PARENTS...



WELL, DID
THEY GET ANY INTO
THE MAINS?

OH, YEAH.
THEY PUT IT
ALL IN.

SO WHY
HAVEN'T WE
FELT ANY ILL
EFFECTS?

MUST BE
A COMPOUND
THAT HAS TO BE
ABSORBED
THROUGH THE
LUNGS...



MAYBE WHOEVER DID THIS
IS WAITING FOR THE GOTHAM
RESERVOIR TO DRY UP SO
THE STUFF'S AIR--

BOOM!

WHAT WAS
THAT?

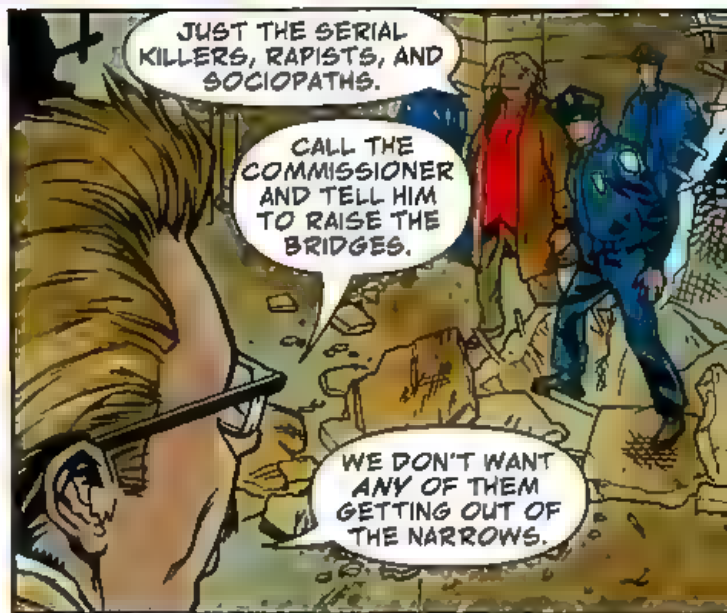


FLASS, WHAT
HAPPENED?!

SOMEBODY
BLEW A HOLE IN
ARKHAM'S
SECURITY WALL,
JIMBO.

THE
LOONS FLEW
THE COOP.

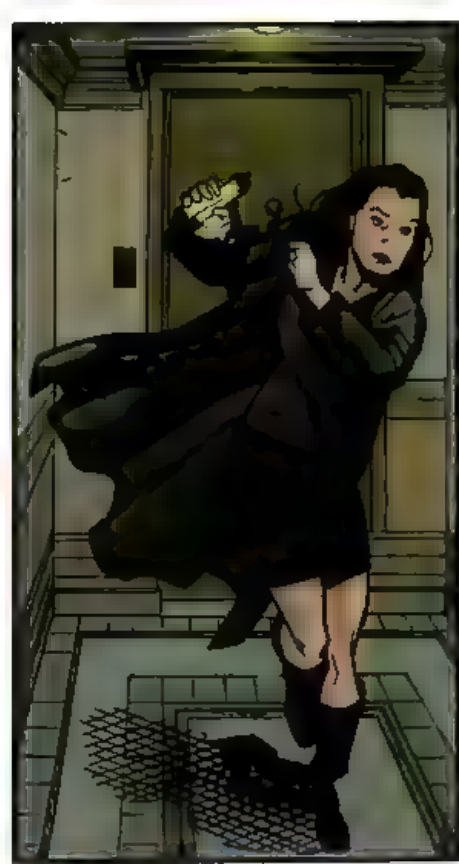
THEY'RE ALL
GONE?



JUST THE SERIAL
KILLERS, RAPISTS, AND
SOCIOPATHS.

CALL THE
COMMISSIONER
AND TELL HIM
TO RAISE THE
BRIDGES.

WE DON'T WANT
ANY OF THEM
GETTING OUT OF
THE NARROWS.





JUSTICE IS
BALANCED.
YOU BURNED
DOWN MY HOUSE
AND LEFT ME
FOR DEAD.

CONSIDER
US EVEN.



NO ONE
COMES
OUT.

MAKE
SURE OF
THAT

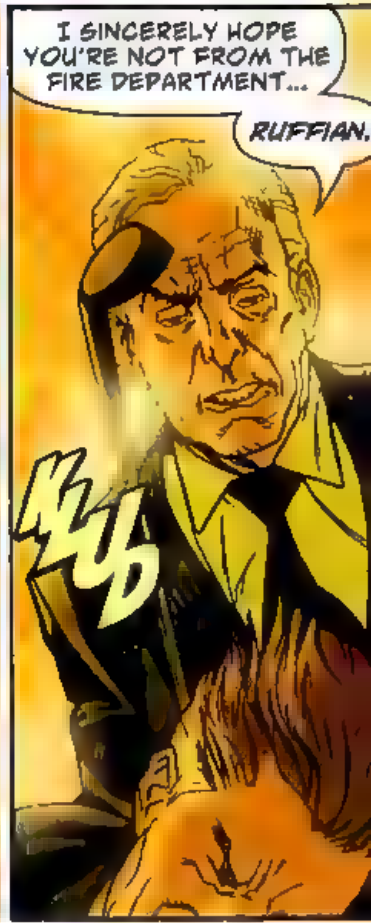
ON MY
LIFE,
MASTER.



IS THE
MICROWAVE
EMITTER
PRIMED?

ARMED
AND READY FOR
ARMAGEDDON.

WE MERELY
AWAIT YOUR
COMMAND.



I SINCERELY HOPE
YOU'RE NOT FROM THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT...

RUFFIAN.



MASTER
BRUCE!

SIR, WHATEVER IS
THE POINT OF ALL
THOSE PUSH-UPS YOU
ENDURE IF YOU
CAN'T EVEN--



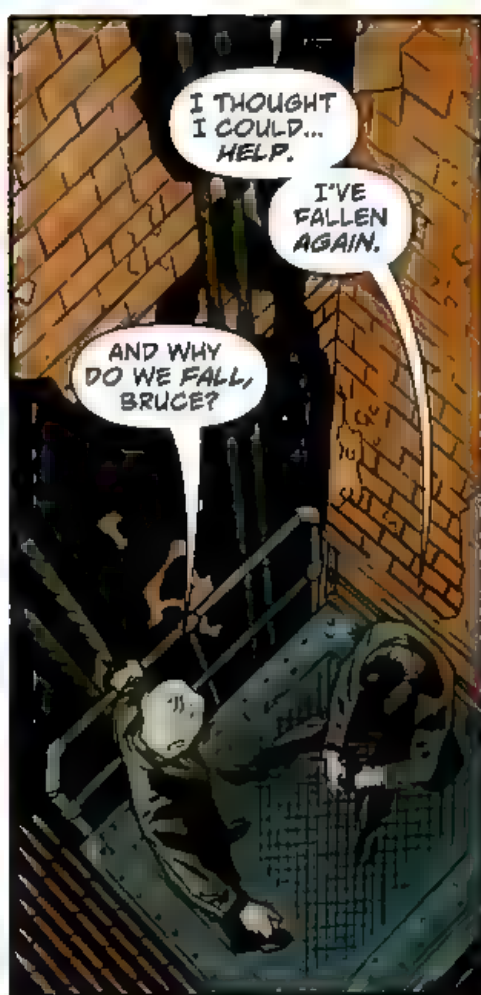
--VERY
GOOD,
SIR.



WHAT HAVE I DONE, ALFRED?

EVERYTHING MY FAMILY BUILT--

THE WAYNE LEGACY IS MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR, SIR.



I THOUGHT I COULD... HELP.

I'VE FALLEN AGAIN.

AND WHY DO WE FALL, BRUCE?



SO THAT WE MIGHT BETTER LEARN TO PICK OURSELVES UP.



HARASSMENT! HARASSMENT!

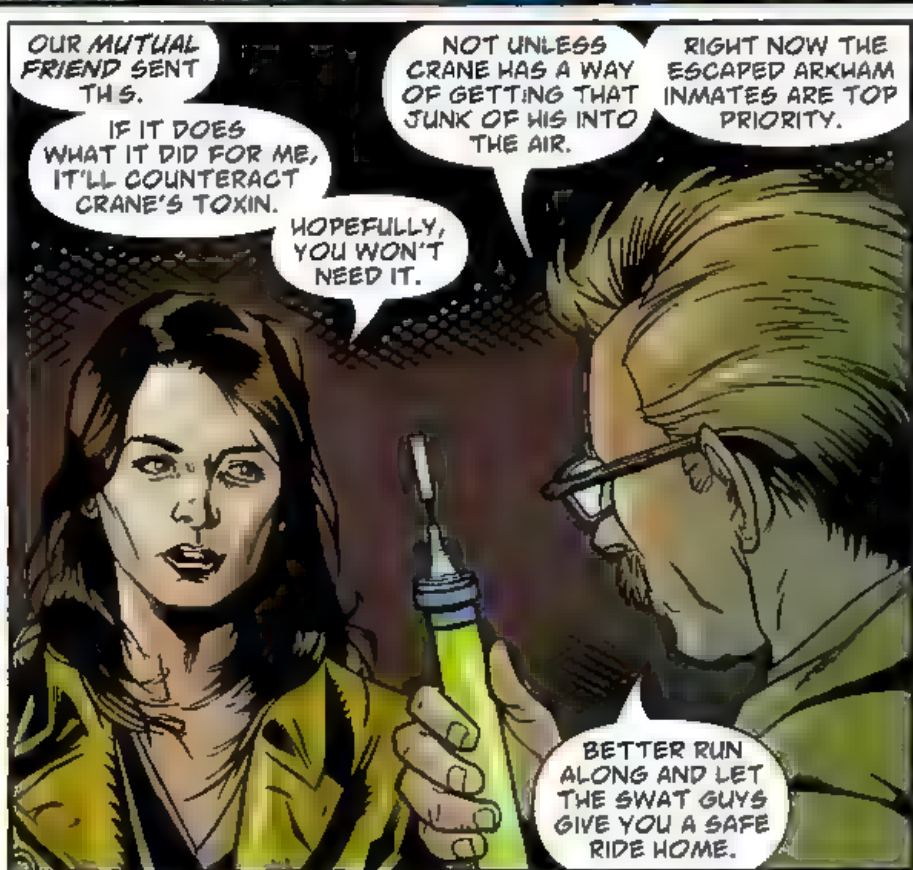
YOU WANNA SEE "EXCESSIVE FORCE," SKELL?



FLASS! COOL IT!

SERGEANT GORDON, THERE'S SOMEONE TO SEE YOU!

YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER, MISS DAWES.



OUR MUTUAL FRIEND SENT THIS.

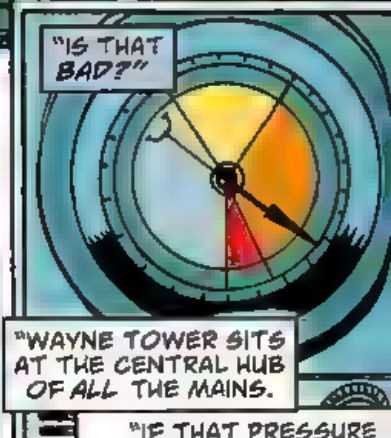
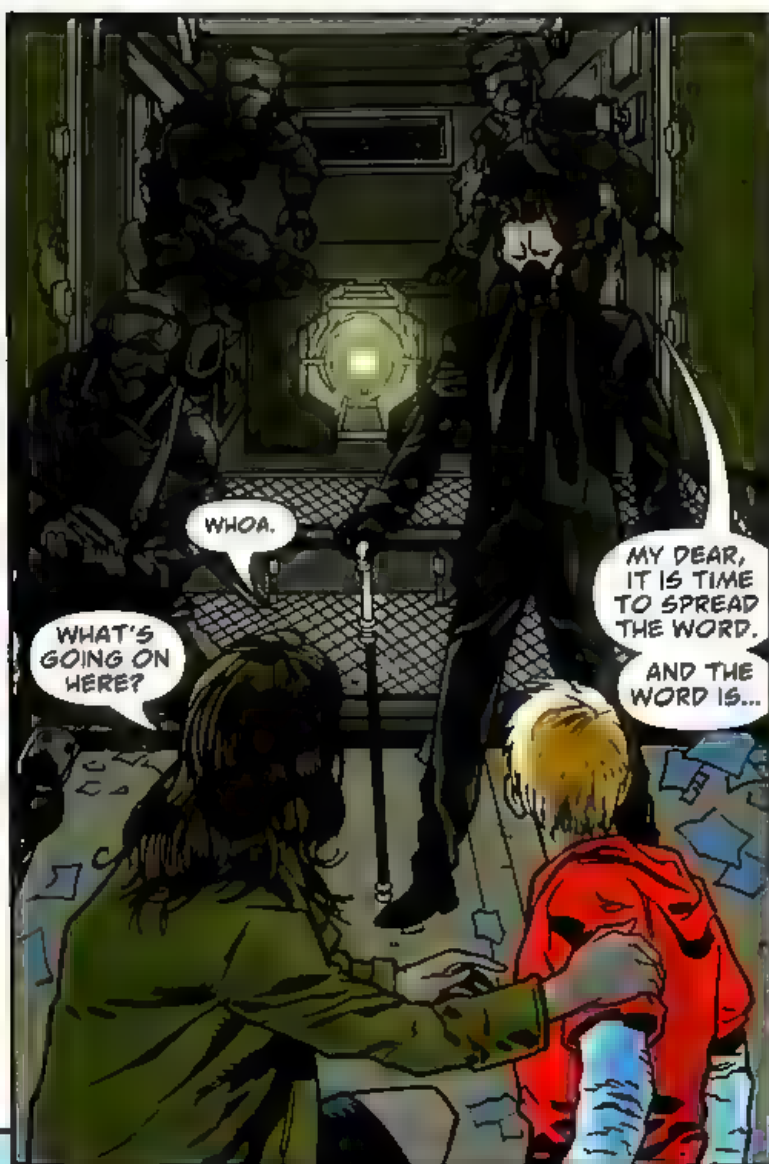
IF IT DOES WHAT IT DID FOR ME, IT'LL COUNTERACT CRANE'S TOXIN.

NOT UNLESS CRANE HAS A WAY OF GETTING THAT JUNK OF HIS INTO THE AIR.

RIGHT NOW THE ESCAPED ARKHAM INMATES ARE TOP PRIORITY.

HOPEFULLY, YOU WON'T NEED IT.

BETTER RUN ALONG AND LET THE SWAT GUYS GIVE YOU A SAFE RIDE HOME.





COME,
MY LEAGUE OF
SHADOWS.

LET US
REJOICE AS
GOTHAM
SHUDDERS IN
THE THROES
OF DEATH.



HOLD IT!
STAY BACK! I
MEAN IT!

THEY'RE
UNARMED,
FLASS!

CRANE'S...
IHN...FEAR DRUG
IS MAKING
EVERYBODY
CRAZY.



MAYBE YOU
BETTER JUST
SIT THIS ONE
OUT.

I DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU HAVE A PLAN...
PARTNER.

WE'RE
STILL TWO,
RIGHT?

CAN
YOU DRIVE
STICK?



IT'S OKAY,
NO ONE'S GOING
TO HURT YOU.

OF
COURSE
THEY ARE!

CRANE!

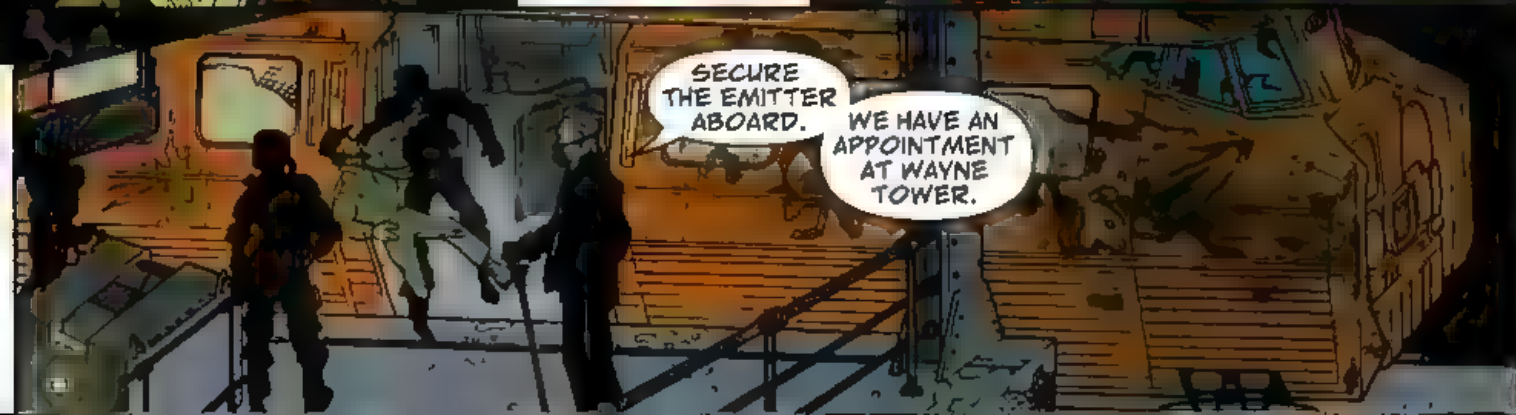
NO, NOT
CRANE...



SCARECROW!
LET
ME HELP
YOU...

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO NEEDS
HELP!

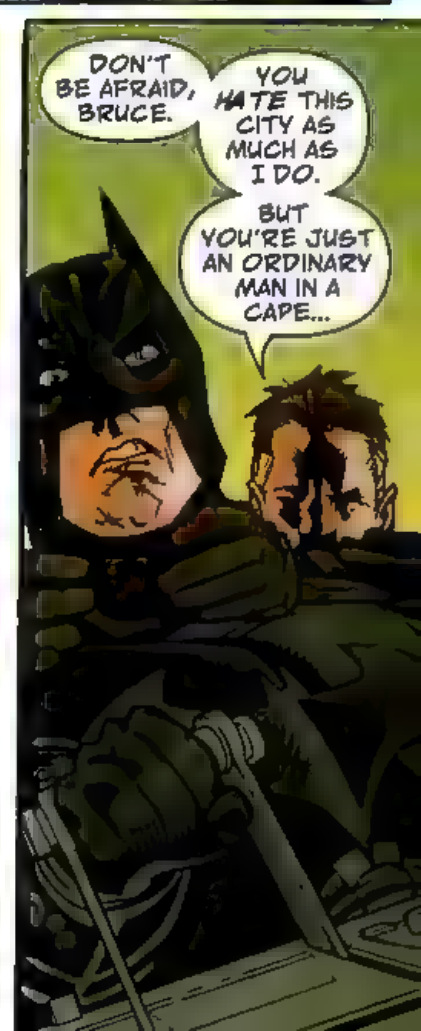
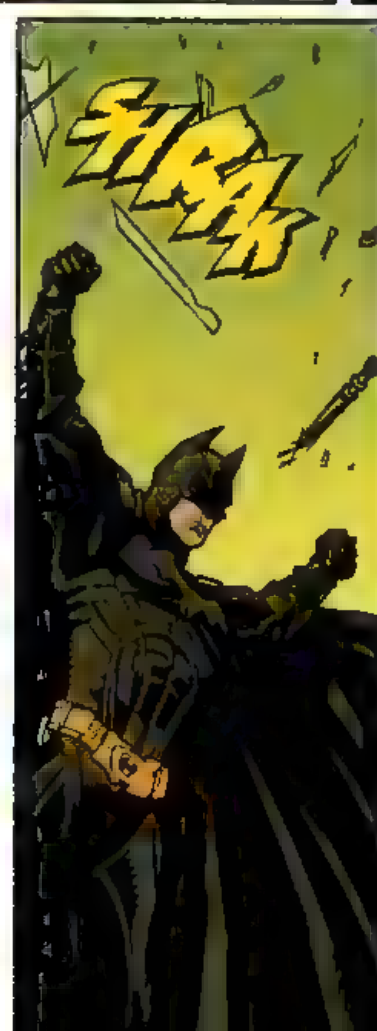
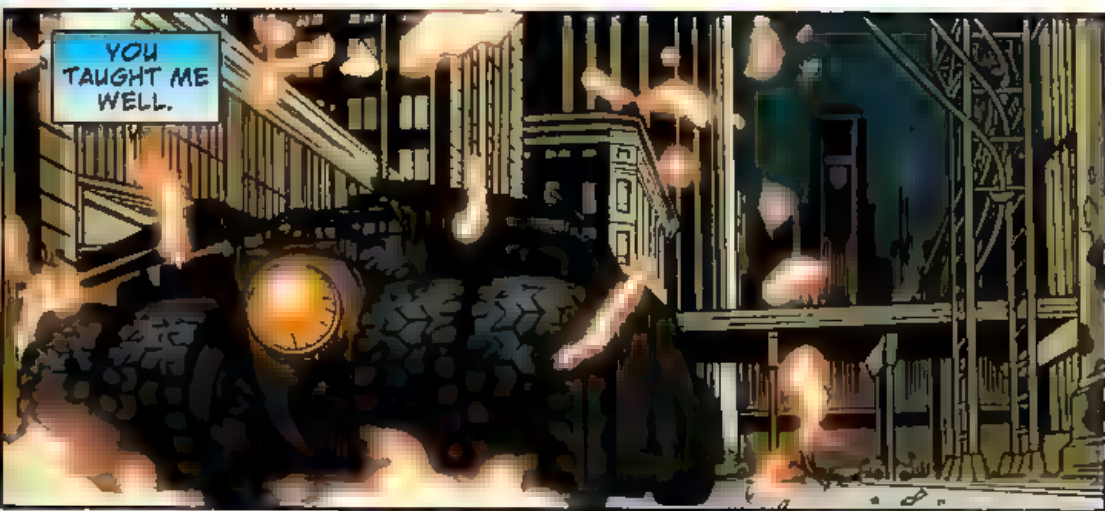
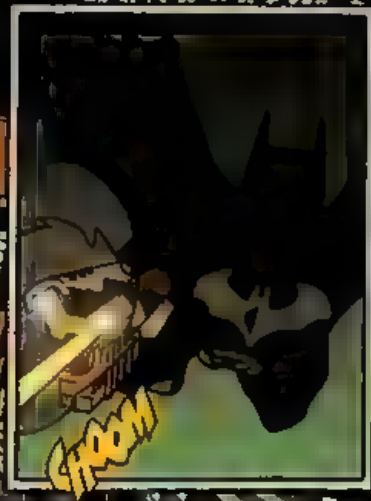
TRY SHOCK
THERAPY!



SECURE
THE EMITTER
ABOARD.

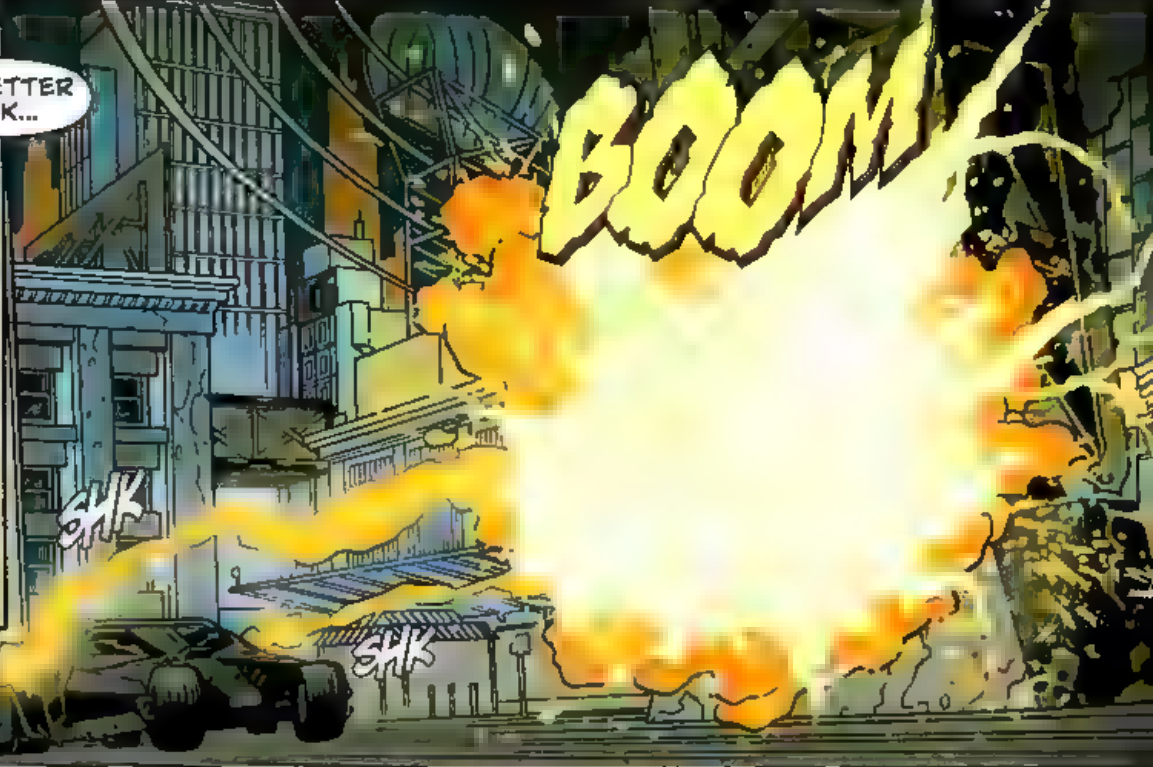
WE HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT
AT WAYNE
TOWER.



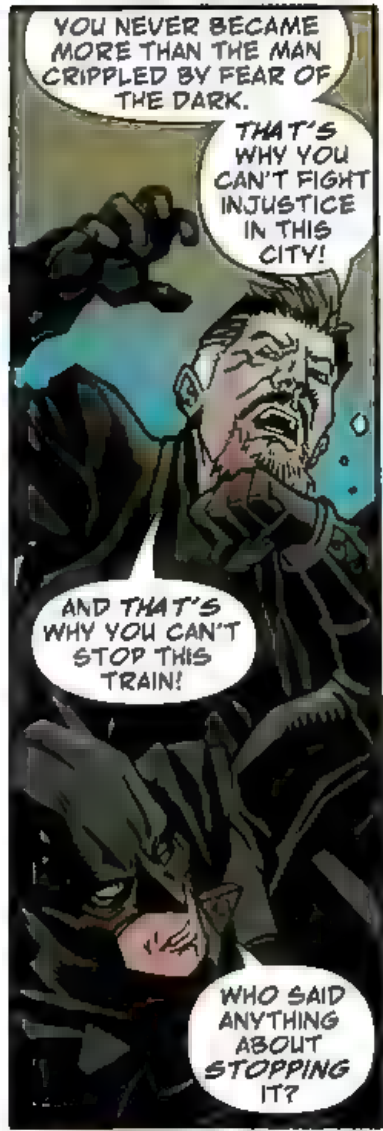




THIS BETTER WORK...



BOOM!



YOU NEVER BECAME MORE THAN THE MAN CRIPPLED BY FEAR OF THE DARK.

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T FIGHT INJUSTICE IN THIS CITY!

AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T STOP THIS TRAIN!

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT STOPPING IT?



HAVE YOU FINALLY LEARNED TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY?

NOTHING'S CHANGED, RA'S.

I WON'T KILL YOU...

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SAVE YOU.

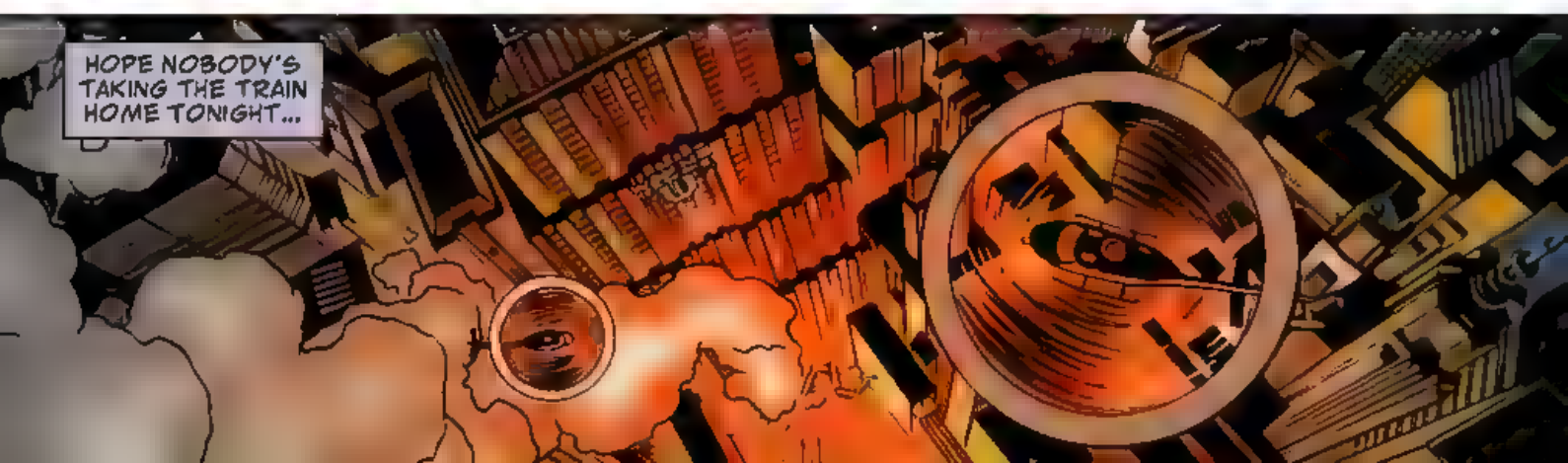
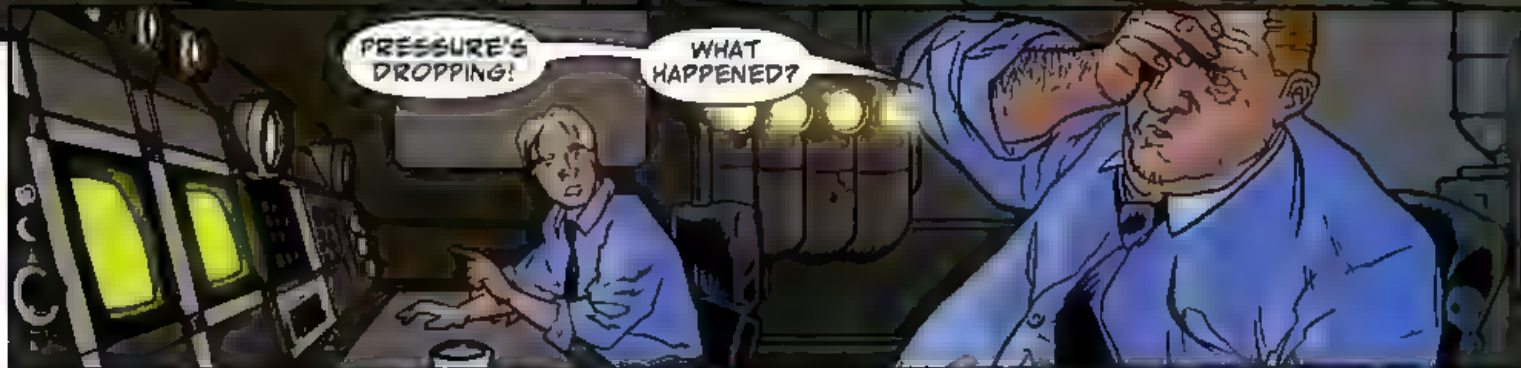
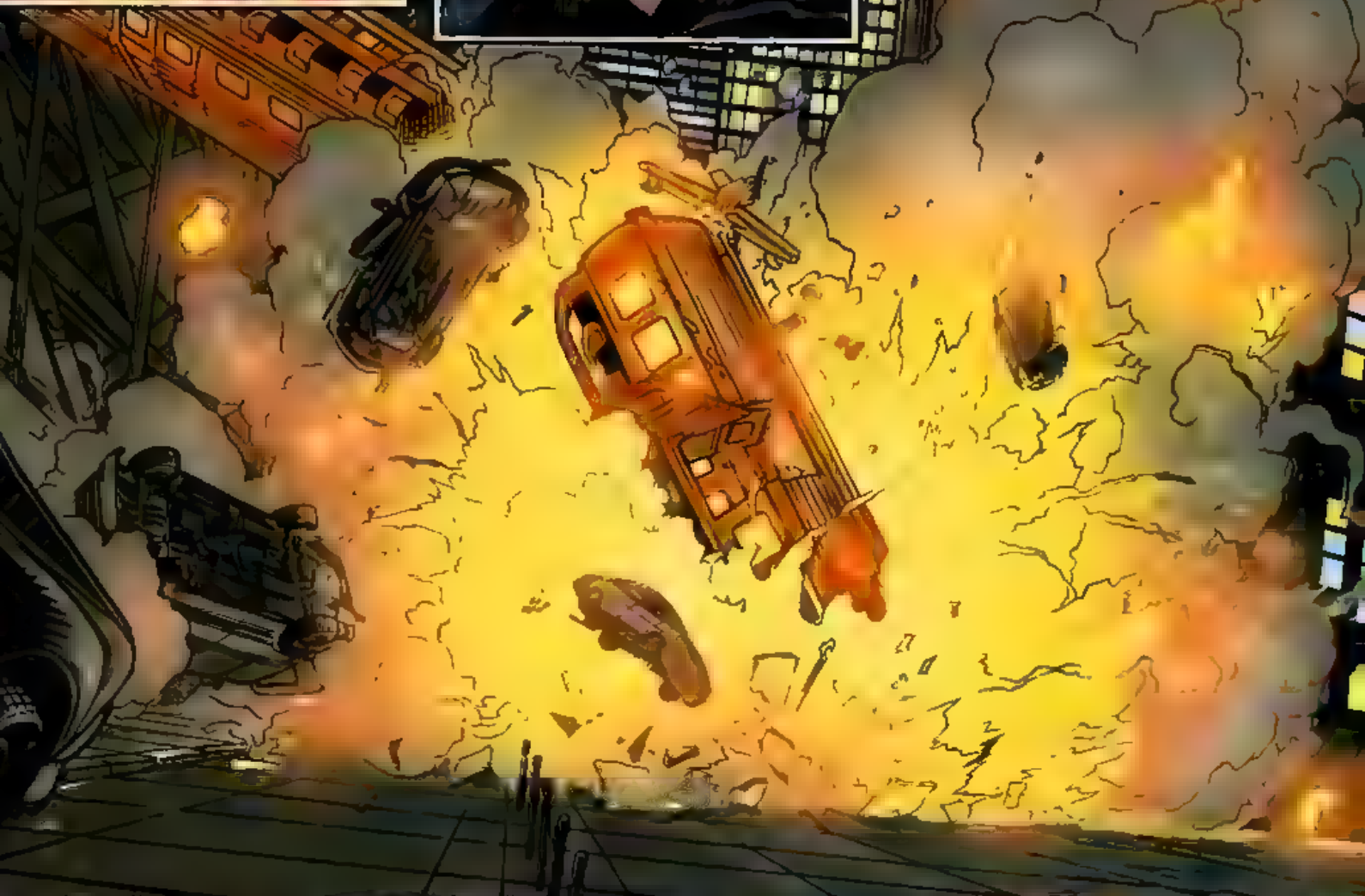


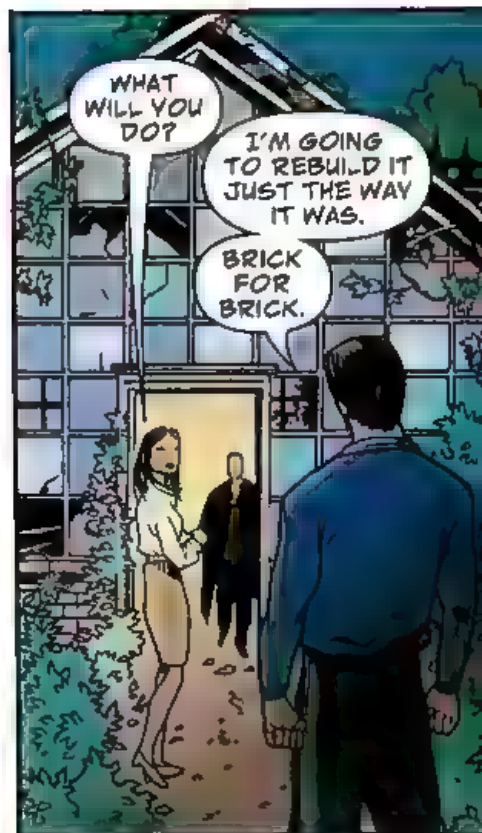
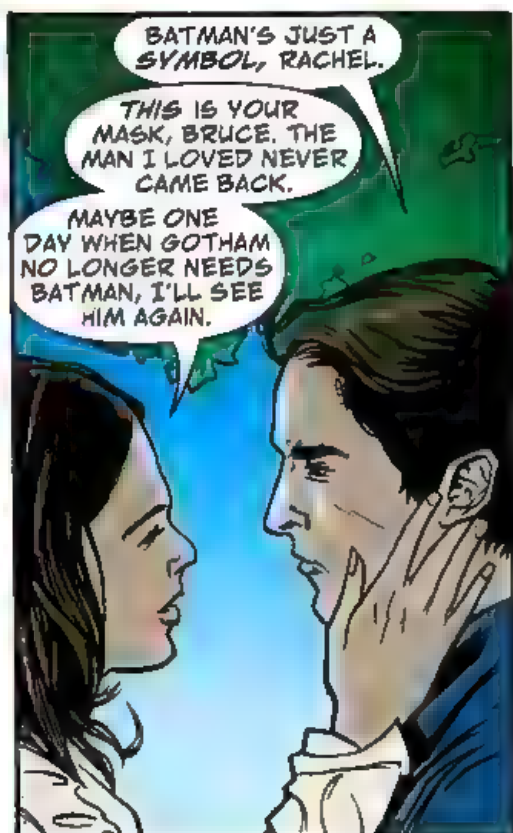
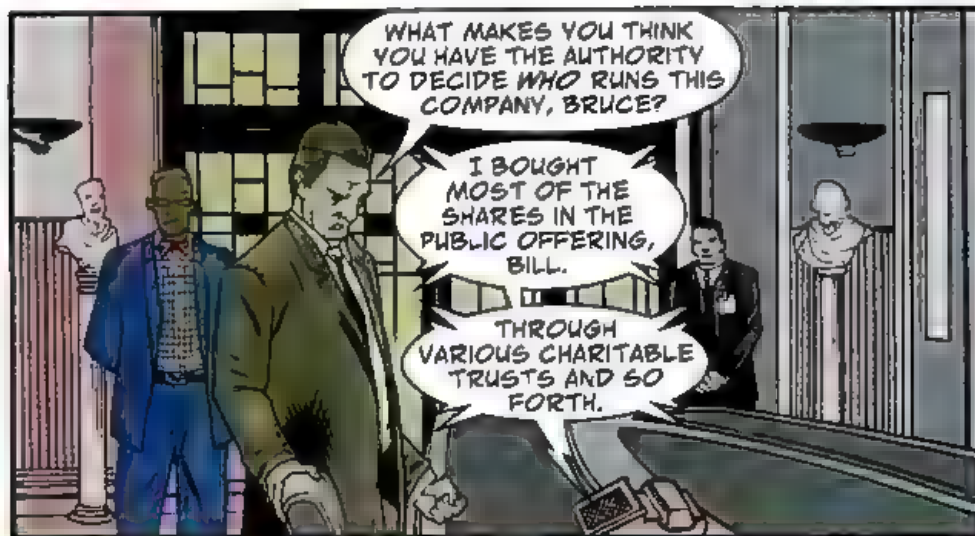
BOOM!

REMEMBER TO MIND YOUR SURROUNDINGS...



...AS MUCH AS YOUR OPPONENT.







...THIS IS
SERIOUS
BUSINESS.



NICE.

COULDN'T
FIND ANY MOB
BOSSSES TO
STRAP TO
THE LIGHT...

WELL,
SERGEANT...

IT'S
LIEUTENANT,
NOW.

COMMISSIONER
LOEB HAD TO
PROMOTE ME.

HE ALSO HAD
TO DISBAND THE
TASK FORCE
HUNTING YOU.



YOU'VE STARTED
SOMETHING. BENT COPS
RUNNING SCARED, HOPE
ON THE STREETS...

BUT?

BUT THERE'S A
LOT OF WEIRDNESS
OUT THERE RIGHT
NOW. CRANE STILL
HASN'T BEEN
APPREHENDED.



I'LL FIND THE
"SCARECROW" SOON
ENOUGH. AND GOTHAM
WILL RETURN TO
NORMAL.

WILL IT?
WHAT ABOUT
ESCALATION?

WE START
CARRYING
SEMI-AUTOMATICS,
THEY BUY
AUTOMATICS.

WE START
WEARING
KEVLAR, THEY
BUY ARMOR-
PIERCING
ROUNDS.

AND?



AND YOU'RE
WEARING A
MASK AND
JUMPING OFF
ROOFTOPS.

TAKE THIS
GUY...



ARMED
ROBBERY, DOUBLE
HOMICIDE...

GOT A TASTE
FOR THEATRICS
LIKE YOU AND HE
LEAVES A CALLING
CARD.

I'LL LOOK
INTO IT.



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DC COMICS

STORY BY DAVID S. GOYER

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PRODUCED BY EMMA THOMAS

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LARRY FRANCO

DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

Soundtrack Album on
Warner Sunset Records

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TO CONQUER FEAR, YOU MUST BECOME FEAR...

Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins* explores the origins of the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. In the wake of his parents' murder, disillusioned industrial heir Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter ego: Batman, a masked crusader who uses his strength, intellect and an array of high-tech deceptions to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city.

This thrilling comics adaptation of the Warner Bros. Pictures film is brought to you by writer Scott Beatty, penciller Kilian Plunkett, inker Serge LaPointe, and colorist José Villarrubia.

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